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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Red tape now red carpet, Noy tells investors

By Christine O. Avendaño

EXCEPT for the weather, President Aquino said last night that his nearly two-year-old administration was able to institute "profound change" in almost every sector, especially in doing business in the Philippines.

Speaking at the 17th anniversary

RED TAPE A19

COLORFUL, RELIGIOUS RESPITE FROM VIOLENCE Kauswagan, once a war-torn town in Lanao del Norte province, holds the 18th Hegwas sa Kauswagan festival on Wednesday as part of its 44th Charter Day celebration and observance of the feast of St. Vicente Ferrer.

MORE PHOTOS, INQUIRER.NET

INSIDE

Public toilets: Mar heeds call of nature / A2 • **D.C. council man** hit for racist talk on PH nurses / A5

INSIDE

Editha Burgos: I just want to find out what really happened / A17

Cory's 'glowing legacy'

P-Noy kin back immediate distribution of Luisita land

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Aquino's family said yesterday it would cooperate with the government in the immediate distribution of its sprawling Hacienda Luisita to its workers as a "glowing legacy" of his late mother, democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

"The Cojuangco family expresses its full confidence that the Supreme Court decision regarding the fate of Hacienda Luisita is a just resolution for all parties concerned," said Antonio Ligon, hacienda counsel and spokesperson.

"Given that the high court maintains that land distribution is the only resolution, the Cojuangco family guarantees its full cooperation in the expeditious completion of this process and put all other issues to rest," he said.

While the family had sought a reconsideration of the high tribunal's Nov. 22, 2011, ruling, Ligon said the court's final decision on the decades-old dispute was "a verdict the Cojuangco family embraces."

"[This] should be a glowing legacy for the late former President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino," he said.

"It cannot be argued that Mrs. Aquino made decisive moves to place Hacienda Luisita in the 1980s under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program although the preference of farmer-beneficiaries for stock distribution option (SDO) prevailed in at least

CORY'S A19

LIVE FROM MALACAÑANG President Aquino gestures during his interview by CNN's Anna Coren at the Quezon Room in Malacañang on Thursday MALACAÑANG

P-Noy's LP, Villar's NP talk coalition

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Michael Lim Ubac

BUDGET Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad and former Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Ace Barbers confirmed today that the talks for a coalition of the Liberal Party (LP) and the Nacionalista Party (NP) in 2013 were in the works.

"We are open to coalition with everyone based on principles, shared advocacies and policy direction of the country to uplifting the lives of the Filipino people," Barbers said.

P-NOY'S LP A19

NP is nation's oldest party / A19

New ARMM greeted with hope, caution

By Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Political leaders in Mindanao welcomed with guarded optimism the proposed new autonomous political entity that would replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

"In spirit, I see that glittering light illuminating the just agreed upon points

NEW ARMM A13

It's not to scare but UK study sees hotter Earth

By Tarra Quismundo

IF YOU think temperatures of up to 37 degrees Celsius in recent days are extremely hot, imagine temperatures 4 degrees higher.

"It seems quite alarmist to do this, but we're doing this as an argument for action, an argument for adaptation and

EFFECTS A19

Obama wants Fil-Am lawyer as federal judge

By Nicola U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—US President Barack Obama on Wednesday nominated Filipino-American trial attorney Lorna Schofield to serve as a federal district court judge for the Southern District of New York.

If confirmed by the United States Senate, Schofield would become the first Filipino-American federal judge.

Fil-Am groups lauded Schofield's nomination, saying it was a big win for diversity. "Given that Asian Americans are significantly underrepresented in the federal judiciary, Ms Schofield's addition will greatly enhance the judiciary's diversity," said Ed Navarro, nation-

OBAMA A19

16th day: 2 PH vessels, 2 Sino ships still at shoal

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Christine O. Avendaño

TWO PHILIPPINE vessels and two Chinese maritime surveillance ships were in the cluster of reefs and islands 228 kilometers west of Zambales on the 16th day of a standoff between Manila and Beijing over the potentially mineral-rich area, officials said.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told reporters there were also six Chinese and two Filipino fishing boats in the area, which Manila calls Panatag Shoal, or Scarborough Shoal in international maps.

Del Rosario said unidentified aircraft

MORE DAY A19

What's at stake in PH-China standoff / A18 • **Overseas Pinoys urged to rally vs China on May 11** / A16

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Former La Salle head, ex-CHEd Chair Bro. Dizon dies; 64 / A20

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What makes players of Philippine Volcanoes so hot / C1

ENTERTAINMENT

Networks shakedown rocks industry / H1

GOING GREEN Solar panels on ADB's roof in Mandaluyong City. GRIPTALOG

ADB meeting of top finance men PH's 'coming-out' party

By Michelle V. Rosca and Roonel W. Domingo

ABOUT 4,500 finance officials from 67 different countries will converge on Manila in early May for the 45th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Philippine government officials said the event, to be held from May 2 to 5 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), would be an exciting opportunity to showcase positive developments in the country, particularly economic growth and good governance.

The officials said they were confident that the event would improve

ADB MEETING A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY: The whole country will have partly cloudy to stormy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Isabela/Aurora	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Ilocos	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cabo	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Catanduanes	Partly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Dumaguete	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga del Sur	Partly Cloudy
Calamba	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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LOTTO 7/42 Tues 6/55 LOTTO, 6/45 Wed & Sat, 6/49 Sun

Delfin Lee prosecution hailed

By Jerry E. Esplanada

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay yesterday hailed the Court of Appeals (CA) decision allowing the filing of syndicated estafa charges against businessman Delfin Lee and other executives of housing firm Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

Binay, the government's housing czar, called the decision a "welcome development."

"Now we can finally continue our quest to seek justice for the ordinary workers defrauded by Globe Asiatique," he said.

In a statement, Binay, also chair of the Pinoy Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), said the decision "proves that Judge Rolando Mislang erred in issuing a temporary restraining order, which effectively blocked the filing of charges against Lee."

"I laud the Court of Appeals for not allowing one person to stand in the way of justice. After the thousands victimized by Globe Asiatique and the full fulfillment of President Aquino's promise to end corruption, it is a campaign that we are pursuing vigorously in the housing sector," Binay said.

The Court of Appeals struck down the order of the Pasig court which blocked the criminal prosecution of Lee, owner of Globe Asiatique, for connection with P6.66 billion in allegedly fraudulent housing loans obtained from Pag-Ibig.

In cross-fighting Lee's indictment, the appellate court said Judge Mislang committed a grave abuse of discretion when he issued an injunction on Sept. 5, 2011, stopping the Department of Justice (DOJ) from filing a case against Lee and others for syndicated estafa.

"To enforce it, an injunction will not lie to enjoin a criminal prosecution because public interest requires that criminal acts be immediately investigated and prosecuted for the protection of society," the court said in a 27-page ruling.

"It is only in extreme cases [for an injunction] will lie to stop criminal prosecutions," it said.

The ruling was penned by Associate Justice Franchito Diamante and concurred in by Associate Justices Mariflor Punzalan Castillo and Edwin Sorongon.

In issuing the injunction, Mislang had agreed with Lee that an existing "prejudicial question" must first be resolved before the DOJ could pursue the criminal complaint against Lee.

LEE

The prejudicial question involved the civil suit that Lee's company had filed against Pag-Ibig on Nov. 25, 2010, in the Makati City RTC.

But the appellate court said that "a thorough and meticulous study of the attendant factual and legal milieu" showed that "no prejudicial question exists that would justify the issuance" of the injunction.

It said Lee's amended cases in the DOJ "can proceed independently of that in the Makati RTC."

Aside from Lee, the DOJ Task Force on Investigation and Prosecution of Graft and Corruption had recommended the filing of a syndicated case of unsecured estafa against Lee's co-Desms, Globe Asiatique officers Dominic Sagun and Cristina Salapin and Pag-Ibig Fund officials Abe Alcaraz.

The DOJ also ordered to the Office of the Ombudsman for "appropriate investigation/ prosecution" against former Pag-Ibig Fund officials and now Malacañan City Reg. Romero Quijano, Jaime Fabian, Tessie Sevilla, Rafael Alfonso and Vilma Flores for possible violation of the anti-graft law.

The case stemmed from the purported anomalous loans amounting to more than P6.66 billion granted by Pag-Ibig to "ghost borrowers" who had allegedly bought houses in Globe Asiatique's housing projects in Davao, Pampanga, Cebu and Iloilo. All were near the end of the year.

Public toilets: Mar beeds call of nature

By Paolo G. Montecillo

As DOE government's infrastructure progress hides into high gear, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is aiming for rights on improving one important aspect of the commuters experience: that everyone can be happy about: Public toilets.

In a press conference Thursday, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas announced a plan to upgrade and construct new restrooms in airports, seaports and other public spaces around the country.

"We are giving a heads up to the business community that now want to bid for this contract. The DOTC will be fixing, upgrading, expanding—all of the above—toilets across the country," he told reporters.

"This will be done at airports, seaports, train stations, and LTO (Land Transportation Office) offices, or in all areas where we transact business directly with the public," said Roxas, who added that the cost the DOTC's cost of being saddled of the needs of consumers.

Under the project, the DOTC will refurbish "the restrooms and build 21 new ones. The project will be bid out to new players, with the first being by the supply of features like toilet bowls and sinks.

The second phase would be to the "public toilets" side of the equation of the installation of the fixtures.

Roxas said the governmental experts to realize savings from the project ensure it would last the fixtures at refurbished prices. "The government can avail of large discounts of as much as 30 percent if we are poised to if we never buying one by one," he said.

Price-on earlier estimate of P66 million, Roxas said the DOTC now expects to spend only around P40 million.

Roxas said the upgrading and construction of restrooms is to make traveling to and within the Philippines more convenient for both Filipinos and foreigners.

The Binay-Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 has been repeatedly cited as one of the world's worst airports, with one of the reasons being its dirty restrooms that have toilets that don't flush. Other public spaces aren't as icky-looking, but are often lacking water, toilet paper and other amenities.

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Metro cools down a bit

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER two days of sizzling 36.2 degrees Celsius, temperature in Metro Manila yesterday dipped to 35.2 degrees Celsius.

Weather observers recorded 35.2°C at around 2 p.m. at the Science Garden in Quezon City, following brief rainshowers.

As expected, Tuguegarao in Cagayan Valley recorded a higher 36.6°C, and Tuguegarao in Cagayan, 36.4°C.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration blamed the soaring heat on the ridge of the high pressure area which keeps clouds from forming in Luzon.

Pagasa forecast that the country would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms today.

Meanwhile, Lt. Sclia has dissipated but this doesn't signal the end of rain in any part of the archipelago, climatologists said.

While the rest of La Niña, a phenomenon that has brought above normal rainfall the month, weather systems affecting an area in a certain month were back to their old "normal patterns," senior weather specialist Daisy Ortega said.

DR. JAMES G. Dy, president announced the successful Heart Valve Replacement Without Surgery of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC).

TSVI Team members, from left to right: Dr Antonino Portillo, Dr Nelson Lee, Dr. Timothy Dy, Dr. Melbes Co-Sia, Dr. Theresa Hosaka

Dr. James G. Dy is the Architect and Builder of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC). Here he realizes if there was a need for a medical institute to further serve the Filipino-Chinese Community, even though the present services many ailments, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC) Heart Institute was established in March 1996. It has now been in existence for 16 years.

It features state of the art facilities with highly trained and competent staff. Under the steadfast and able leadership of its Director, Dr. Dy Bun Pak (who is also our Associate Medical Director), and the cooperation of the Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and Staff of the Heart Institute, thousands of patients have already benefited from the world-class treatment and heart institute offers. This has greatly enhanced the prestige of our hospital.

On March 17, 2012, The Heart Institute of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center joined the ranks of the world's elite hospitals by performing a heart valve replacement without performing surgery on the patient's chest using a procedure called Trans-Fluoroscopic Aortic Valve Implantation. In this procedure, a new valve is implanted into the patient's diseased aortic valve through the patient's groin similar to how patients undergo angioplasty or stenting. Eliminating another possibility of nosocomial hazard acquired. Before this technology became available, heart valve replacement could only be done using open chest surgery.

Chinese General Hospital is the first hospital to receive accreditation from Medtronic, the company manufacturing the device, back in the middle of 2011. However, due to the lead to regulatory approval from the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD), it is only now that this procedure can be performed. At this point, Chinese General Hospital is only one of two hospitals in the Philippines that are accredited by Medtronic.

The team of physicians who performed this procedure is composed of 2 interventional cardiologists Dr. Timothy C. Dy and his associate Dr. Melbes Co-Sia, a cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Nelson C. Lee, an anesthesiologist Dr. Theresa Hosaka and an echocardiographer Dr. Anastes Rentoy. The patient who underwent this procedure is an 88 year old lady who experienced heart failure, generalized weakness and difficulty breathing particularly during exertion. This condition is found mostly in the elderly population but can be found also in younger patients. Since medications generally do not improve survival, in the past open heart surgery has been the only recommended treatment for them. However with this new technology patients who are at high risk for open heart surgery have a new option.

In addition to performing TAVI, the same medical team is one of only half a dozen in the country that performs repair of aortic aneurysm and dissections without surgery. The procedure for repair of aortic dissections and aneurysms is the latest is called TEVAR (Thoracic Endovascular Aneurysm Repair) and the repair of aortic aneurysm is called EVAR (Endovascular Aneurysm Repair).

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Airlines back probe of customs airport overtime pay padding

THE AIRLINE industry will cooperate with the Ombudsman in investigating a complaint filed by airport customs examiners against their immediate superiors for allegedly padding their overtime claims with airline companies, and pocketing, instead of distributing properly, the money collected.

Raymer Aguilos, spokesperson for the Board of Airline Representatives (Dair), said the complaint supports "our longstanding suspicion of overcharging, and abuse of this overtime arrangement. We are thankful that the present administration has decided to do away with the backbreaking practice of a single shift from 8 to the morning to 5 in the afternoon plus overtime, and instead operate 24/7 on three shifts at key ports as it does worldwide."

The airlines had paid airport customs roughly P3 billion since the early 1990s until 2005, when they decided to stop paying after airport customs wanted to double their charges.

The airlines then challenged the overtime practice in court, arguing customs employees are government employees, not choirs. There are about 200 customs employees at the airport.

The complaint before the Ombudsman was filed in August 2009 by some examiners who did not get their share. Aguilos said the revelations of this case would "resonate across the bureaucracy and send a strong message in cutting civil servants'

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Fil-Ams brave storm in support of Jessica

By Nicole U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—A group of Filipino-Americans braved the stormy weather and gathered at a Filipino restaurant and bar here to continue to cheer up support for Jessica Sanchez, the Filipino-Mexican "American Idol" hopeful who was almost sent packing after getting the lowest votes in the Top singing competition two weeks ago.

"We just delivered 4,000 votes for Jessica tonight, and we have just started," said social media specialist Gloni Jamero, who organized a get-together called "Maglaro for Jessica (Game for Jessica.)"

With their cell phones and laptops, Jamero and about 30 other Fil-Am fans of Sanchez cast their votes together after watching yesterday's "Idol" episode, where the remaining six finalists were asked to perform a number from the iconic British rock band Queen and a song of their choice.

Regaining her foothold

Struggling to regain her foothold after her near elimination two weeks ago, the 16-year-old Sanchez first performed "Bohemian Rhapsody," which generated lukewarm response from the judges.

"Yeah but I just knew I wouldn't say it was at all, but I still love your voice... and you never good today," said Steven Tyler.

Randy Jackson saw no problem with the performance while Lopez wished Sanchez showed more vigor and enthusiasm.

Her low point, though, came when she (after Stockton ballad "Dance With My Father," a rendition that drove Tyler to libera her as Whitney Houston and Lopez to delve as one the finest of the song's many interpretations. Sanchez dedicated the song to her soldier father.

"We'd really like Jessica to win not only because she's Filipino but also because she really is the best," said Randy Milanes, a popular auditionista who drove many miles through the rain to attend the event.

In Washington, D.C., the Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC) is planning to organized its campaign for Sanchez by hosting Lamejo as well.

"We will target both Filipino Americans and Latinos in our social media campaign, e-mail blast and phone brigade," said Amado Valera, MHC executive director.

Valera said he cast about eight votes per minute for Sanchez during the voting period following yesterday's episodes.

"Talent wise, Jessica is clearly the winner. But it's also very much a popularity contest," he said. "So Jennifer Lopez said, 'Everybody had one good performance. It's about who deserves favor."

Standing ovations

Yesterday's performance saw Joshua Ledet earning another pair of standing ovations from the judges with his energetic take on Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and increased confidence of his diva-ness. Wendy Ian Lee.

"Is it bad for me to say Joshua's part of the show is my favorite part of the show?" said Lopez in praise for the 20-year-old gospel singer.

Skylar Laine, who impressed the panel with "The Show Must Go On" and Jason Aldean's "Dirt on My Dirt Town," joked that Ledet earned his 12th standing ovation of the season. Laine herself wasn't lacking in fans. Tyler called her country interpretation of the Queen ballad "over the top."

Jackson called Colsen B "a genuine fan" of the 18-year-old country rocker.

But Jackson's Idol Tyler didn't love Elise Testone's bold selection of Janis Hendrix's "Build an Love." Tyler warned the striking 26-year-old rocker that while it seemed his heart for her to do Hendrix, she's "gotta do songs that people know." Lopez gave a similar warning to 22-year-old pastor Deqwan Kay Phillips.

"I need you to do songs that are gonna get you on that list show so you can win," Lopez demanded after Phillips' cackled the Dave Matthews Band's frenetic track "Two Step."

With a report from AP

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D.C. dad hit for racist remark on PH nurses

By Nicole U. Rueda
Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The Philippines is condemning Washington, D.C., Councilmember Marion Barry for remarks critical of local hospitals for hiring Filipino nurses instead of District of Columbia residents.

Philippine Ambassador Jose Cuisia issued a statement Monday describing Barry's statements "intolerant and unwarranted."

Barry said at a council hearing on the District of Columbia's budget on Monday that many hospitals hire "immigrants who are nurses, particularly from the Philippines."

"This offshore," Barry said, "but let's grow our own workers, let's grow our own nurses, and so that we don't have to go scrounging to our colonialist cousins and other kinds of places, having to hire people from somewhere else."

Barry said training schools in the district should train local residents to work in the health industry and deal with nursing shortages.

Cuisia said Barry's "penchant for blaming foreign ...lack incentive, discrimination and violence."

No Washington officials have criticized Barry for the comment about nurses. The district has professional training guardians for local residents.

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Nafilas) and the Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC) based in Washington, D.C., denounced Barry's remarks as racist and bigoted.

"We reject this continued harm hashing by elected officials like Mr. Barry and demand that he apologize for his insensitive and irresponsible remarks," Nafilas chair Ed Navas said in a statement.

"We also call on him to engage in a meaningful dialogue with our community so we can better educate the broader American public about the significant contributions that our diverse immigrant communities have made to this country."

MHC Executive Director Amado Valera said Barry's statements were "unbecoming of a public official." **With reports from AP**

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Biometrics for GMA not needed after all, judge rules

By Matthanielli, Melicas

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will not get a chance to validate her biometric information in time for the 2013 elections.

Judge Anna Mapas of Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 yesterday overturned his earlier decision ordering the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to bring a biometric machine to Arroyo's hospital room at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in order to validate her data.

Court spokesperson Felida Dominguez said Mapas reversed the decision after the Comelec objected to it.

"First of all, there is no legal requirement necessitating the capture of her biometric data, which means that she can vote and run in the upcoming elections without it," she said.

Lack of verified biometric data

Dominguez said the lack of verified biometric data in the new Pampanga representative's election record wouldn't bar Arroyo from her from the polls.

"What is important is that she is a registered voter and the lack of her biometric data will not impair her constitutional right to vote," she said.

Mapas also took into consideration the logistical difficulties the Comelec enumerated in its objection, most notably the bringing of a biometrics machine from her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga, to her hospital suite in Quezon City.

"The Comelec said the machine would come from Lubao, in the meantime, the Comelec staff are busy preparing for the 2013 polls," Dominguez said.

Arroyo's camp has yet to reveal their next move.

Rep. Mikaela Suntay, Arroyo's lawyer in the electoral sabotage case she is facing in Mapas' court, said it was important for the former president to have her biometric data certified.

"We don't want (the biometrics) issue to be used against her when she votes in the next elections," he said.

Earlier, Mapas denied Arroyo's petition to go to her hometown to have her biometric data verified, citing challenges in securing her.

Instead, Mapas directed the Comelec to bring a biometrics machine to her hospital suite where she is recuperating from various illnesses.

Ifugao attackers hunted by AFP

By DJ Yap

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday vowed to get the perpetrators of the ambush that resulted in the death of 13 soldiers and two civilians in Ifugao province on Wednesday as it launched a probe into how the attack by suspected communist rebels could have happened.

"Our concentration as of now is the pursuit of the perpetrators and then the board of inquiry will follow after that. We will first make sure that the area is safe and secure," AFP public affairs chief Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said.

He added: "We will exhaust all measures to deliver justice to the 13 troops who were killed in the latest atrocity by the New People's Army." The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Burgos told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo that the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division was organizing a board of inquiry to gather the facts, evaluate what went wrong and determine if anyone should be held responsible.

Morning ambush

Ifugao fire killed the driver of a military truck carrying members of the 86th Infantry Battalion as they passed through Sitio Bulyo in Tinoc town between 7 and 8 a.m. Wednesday on their way back to camp.

The driver lost control of the truck, which toppled down a cliff, killing the other soldiers. The surviving soldiers engaged the rebels in battle. The two slain residents may have been caught in the crossfire, the police and military said.

Burgos condemned the "treacherous attack" on the government forces, saying it demonstrated the NPA's "total disregard of the rights of every citizen," considering that civilians were among those killed.

However, he said, the AFP remained supportive of the peace efforts between the national government and the communist leadership.

"Our appeal to them is to reassess their supposed intention to talk peace down in their ground units. This means that their minority will not only be exemplified by the top leadership but also translated down to the smallest unit," Burgos said.

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Comelec still owes Smartmatic P50M

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) still owes its systems provider Smartmatic Philippines P50 million for services rendered during the 2010 national elections, according to the company's president.

Smartmatic Philippines president Leon Flores disclosed the Comelec's debt in his economy on Wednesday night at the Shinsha Overseas Press Club forum, where he discussed Smartmatic's assessment of 2010 general elections.

Speaking to reporters later, Flores said Smartmatic's insistence on being involved in next year's midterm elections — projected to fall in the poorest income spread area (PUOS) system, though continuing criticism observed its success.

"That actually speaks of our performance and our will to continue working with Comelec because, even though we haven't been fully paid, we are still very much willing to want to do the next elections," Flores said.

Flores said "some aspects" that the Comelec needed to complete could let underwriting the 2013 poll instead of Smartmatic's 2010 contract.

"We are just waiting for them to finalize their analysis," he said.

Despite the Comelec's debt, Flores said, Smartmatic would continue to build on the goodwill it had fostered with the commission by working with it for the 2013 midterms.

Asked whether Smartmatic had considered legal options to collect, Flores answered in the negative, saying the company wanted to solve the problem amicably.

Flores said the Comelec's debt to Smartmatic would not prevent the company from working again with the commission.

Smartmatic is calling in the Comelec 80,000 PCOS voting machines used in the 2010 elections for P1.8 billion for use in next week's midterm elections. Aquino Smartmatic had contested the machines' flaws, the Comelec decided in March to buy the machines.

But election watchdogs and critics of the PCOS machines challenged the contract in the Supreme Court, winning a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Comelec on April 24.

Flores considered the TRO a setback. But now the Supreme Court temporarily stopped the contract, he said, the public would have peace of mind in glimpse of the upgraded PCOS machines.

Flores said Smartmatic technicians had been working on the kinks of the PCOS machines over the last few weeks.

"Actually, we have been working very hard to the last few weeks because the idea is Comelec must review the machines and they can now, for a fact, say that the machines are working and are properly maintained," Flores said.

He said the company had been dealing with the flaws of the machines since last year, when the Court ordered Smartmatic to present the machines to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for examination.

Smartmatic's contract for the election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) — which disrupted

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TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NEW ROCKWELL 4237V

Portion of Sta. Rita St. and Ramon Magsaysay Ave. from Jacinto 2 Bldg. to and including Guadalupe Commercial Complex, 6868A Bldg., Ritz Heights 3, Sogo Hotel Guadalupe, Checkmg Restaurant, Vitas Apartelle, Caremark Restaurant, Mabini Market, MANG Alabel Booster Pumping Plant & Reservoir, Bgy. Guadalupe Nuevo Hall, Center, Bldg., Guadalupe Nuevo Specific Complex, Guadalupe Police Station, Bgy. Guadalupe Nuevo Health Center, Princess Apartelle and Pizza Alpamaliz Dormae, Huidumbe Carmen, Antipolo La Consolacion, Manila Bgy. Fabian Velez Circle, P. Burgos, P. Jacob, Belen, Felipe, Sampaguita, Mercado, Sahagun and Bautista Sts. in Bgy. Guadalupe Nuevo.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and other line rehabilitation work along Dronna and Magsaysay Sts. in Bgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 – 2, 2012

MANILA (MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 05/01/12) AND 3:30AM (WED., 05/02/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT PIKO 4144/T – MALATE 452

Portion of Lane Zuzuno St. (b. from Dagonoy St. to Estrella St. including Tangos Apartment

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole and line reconstruction work along Lane Quirino St. in front Estrella St. in Malate, Manila.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY AND TAYABAS)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 4:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAYABAS 44/2Y AND 51/2Y

Portion of D. Nadres and Luis Palad Sts. from Mercado Tayabas substation in Bgy. Matuena, Tayabas

Portion of Tayabas – Lucena Road and Quezon Ave. from Tayabas Substation to Mercado Tayabas St. in Lucena City including Lita Subd., Lovely Subd., Carmenville Subd., St. John Bosco Academy, New Tayabas Orchid and La Tondeña Distillers in Bgys. Matuena, Wakas, Isbec, Domasi Kanluran, Mayohan, Ilos and Tongko in Tayabas.

Portion of Maharlika Highway from Tayabas – Bumay Provincial Road to and including M. A. Roxas University Compound, University Village, PNB Homes, Andanan Village, Gapasan Subd., De Mesa Compound, Hermano Capistrano Subd., R. Pilar Compound, Reymar Compound, Happy Family Subd., Hillspeed Park Subd., Seri-Idolo Subd., St. Michael Subd., Villa Aurea, Daniel Gank Subd., B. Perez Subd., Culinar Homes and Daniel Gamarch Bgys. Isocohan, Ibonot, Bulating, Bulang, Balilang, Bukal and Nagang Diapay in Lucena City.

Portion of De Leon, Merchan and Enriquez Sts. from Quezon Ave. to and including House of Habitia, Landbank and Bautista Hotel Subd. in Barangay 5(b) proper.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Tayabas / Lucena Provincial Road in Bgy. Matuena, Tayabas, Quezon Province.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, MAY 4 - 5, 2012

LAS PIÑAS CITY AND CAVITE (BACOOR)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:00PM (FRI., 05/04/12) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30AM AND 4:00AM (SAT., 05/05/12) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT LAS PIÑAS 46/A

Portion of Aguinaldo – Zapote Road from Tuason Subd. to Quirino Ave. (Real) including Pamplona Village, Pinlac Park Subd., Bel Aldro Subd., St. Joseph Subd., Merrivale Country Subd. and Casimiro Townhomes I in Bgys. Zapote and Pamplona I in Las Piñas City.

Portion of Pulo Santos Ave. (Tramo Road) from Alabang – Zapote Road to Tuason Village Indoplata Elemental Villas, Phases 1 & 2, Rolast Compound and Ugong Bakod Compound in Bgy. Zapote, Las Piñas City.

Portion of Quirino Ave. (Real) from near Alabang – Zapote Road to Las Piñas – Talaba Diversion Road including Shell Gas Station and Petron Gas Station in Bgys. Zapote and Pulanglupa I in Las Piñas City.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (FRI., 05/04/12) AND 4:00AM (SAT., 05/05/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT LAS PIÑAS 453/A

Portion of Quirino Ave. (Real) from near Alabang – Zapote Road to Las Piñas – Talaba Diversion Road including Shell Gas Station and Petron Gas Station in Bgys. Zapote and Pulanglupa I in Las Piñas City.

Portion of Alabang – Zapote Road from Las Piñas – Talaba Diversion Road to Alabang – Zapote Road in Bgys. Zapote, Pulanglupa I and Talaba I including Ocean Aquaculture Enterprises in Bgy. Zapote II, Bacoor, Cavite.

Portion of Alabang – Zapote Road from Las Piñas – Talaba Diversion Road to Alabang – Zapote (Expressway) including Luzon Printing in Bgy. Longos, Bacoor, Cavite.

Portion of Manila – Cavite Expressway from Las Piñas – Talaba Diversion Road to near Victory Harvest in Bgys. Talaba II and Longos in Bacoor, Cavite.

REASON: Relocation of facilities (pole, transformer and wiring) along Quirino Ave. (Real) in Bgy. Pulanglupa I, Las Piñas City.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 5 - 6, 2012

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SAT., 05/05/12) AND 6:00AM (SUN., 05/06/12) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SANTOLAN 413/6U

Portion of Marcos Highway from U.N. Crost Cpd. to E. Rodriguez Ave. including Bell Oasis, DoNoAmore Executive Village and Agoncillo Subd. & Dasco Residencia, Tolmi- Ave Textile, Sogo Hotel, Woodstock Inn and Blenkpark Lodge II in Bgy. Santolan.

Portion of Rodriguez Ave. from Marcos Highway to and including Arthur Bldg. Corp. and Doña Rosary Subd. in Bgys. Santolan and Dela Paz.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH road widening project along Marcos Highway in Bgy. Santolan, Pasig City.

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012

BATANGAS (BATANGAS CITY)

BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS INGCP – BOLBOK 332/Z AND 332/Z AND MAHABANG PARANG 32/AZ

Sitio Santa Rita-Nayo in Bgys. Santa Rita Karsada and Sitio Sambat-Ipamatnata

Portion of Batangas City – San Jose National Road from Marauoy – Mahabang Parang substation to and including Sitios Kanluran, Nayo and Sabac, Bgys. Ilusad, Conception and Mahabang Parang

REASON: NGCP maintenance work inside NGCP – Batangas substation.

LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ, PILA, LILIW AND MAGCARLAN)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 322/WP, 22/WP, 34/WP AND 20/WP

The whole of Sta. Cruz

The whole of Pila excluding Carmen Agra Subd. and Punta Cubitos in Bgys. San Antonio and Bubilan Sur

The whole of Liliw excluding Barrio Agra Subd. at Bgys. Bagong and Daang Patalan

Portion of Bgys. Bamboo-Bamboo, Manaol, Masaslita, Bitucan and Maharlika in Magcarlan

REASON: Maintenance work inside Maralco Sta. Cruz substation and replacement of rotten poles in Bgy. Magsaysay I, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday – April 27, 2012
1st Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 5:1-11

And considered nothing her sickness and death for the disciples of the Lord. He went to the High Priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus in their would authorize him to arrest and bring to Jerusalem anyone he might find, man or woman, belonging to the Way.

As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?" And he asked, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, there you will be told what you are to do."

The men who were traveling with him stood there speechless; they had heard the sound, but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground and, opening his eyes, he could not see. They led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. He was blind and he did not eat or drink for three days.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, to whom the Lord called in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Here I am, Lord!" Then the Lord said to him, "Go at once to Straight Street and ask, at the house of Judas, for a man of Tarsus named Saul. You will find him praying, for he has just seen in a vision that a man named Ananias will come in and place his hands upon him, restoring his sight."

Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and now he is here with authorization from the High Priest to arrest all who call upon your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to bring my name to the pagan nations and their kings, and the people of Israel as well. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name."

So Ananias left and went to the house. He laid his hands upon Saul and said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me to you so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he could see; he got up and was baptized. Then he had food and was strengthened.

For several days Saul stayed with the disciples at Damascus, and he soon began to proclaim in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God.

Gospel: John 6:52-59

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, truly I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives with me and I live with him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live by the Father, so he who feeds on me will live by me. This is the bread which came down from heaven. It is not like that which your fathers ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Reflection

"Which is my blood" means the full presence and reality of a person. "But my flesh and drink my blood," he said. "But, but..." To what we have heard people say through the ages as of the beginning. "Jesus is an unbelievable compliment, your blood is in your alcohol, but not for me." Becoming a true Christian is not just a matter of belief, but of the presence and reality of Christ. When you become united to or touch Jesus' life and have shared how Christ is present in the Eucharist, just eat the bread and go head to who loves unceasing. Jesus himself gave us experience to be formed.

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Cory's 'glowing legacy' is distribution of Luisita land

From page A1

three referendum over land distribution."

However, he said that "there is a formula in the law that has to be applied" in determining the "just compensation" for the owners of farmlands covered by the government's agrarian reform program.

"We will assist the processes in compliance with the determination of just compensation provided for in the law," Lipana said, referring to the steps which the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Land Bank of the Philippines would take to decide on land valuation.

"We have always believed that the purpose of the law is ultimate justice and equal rule for everyone. The application of the law in this case is no exception."

Palace remains silent

Malacañang has so far remained silent on Tuesday's ruling by the Supreme Court affirming its nonaturon decision dismantling the 4,915-hectare sugar plantation, disallowing a bid by the family to secure P1 billion (P1 million per hectare) as compensation and ordering 1989 land powers (as low as P40,000 per hectare) as basis of its valuation.

Representatives of the 6,300 beneficiaries have urged Mr. Aquino, who had thwarted himself of his holdings in the estate, to mobilize assistance for the workers during a difficult transition period to allow them to become self-sufficient farmer-cultivators.

Prominent spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Mr. Aquino was still reserving to be briefed by Agrarian Reform Secretary Ilocano on how to move on the high court's decision.

"There are instructions to us not to comment on something we have not seen," Lacierda told reporters, referring to a copy of the court resolution Tuesday.

"We will implement the law," Lacierda said, pointing out that Dr. Ivo Peña had issued guidelines to Ilocano on the distribution of the farmland to its beneficiaries, in response to Mr. Aquino's directives.

Coronas fears dismissal

Lacierda dismissed concerns by Chief Justice Renato Corona that he expected Mr. Aquino would get back at him for the rollback the court had dealt on his family.

He said Corona should be "concerned about the paperwork, not court rather than worrying about what is not presented or illusions acts of vengeance against him."

"The government is not in that business. We're in the business of reform and part of the reform process is refraining to settle the judiciary," Lacierda said.

"Corona should be concerned about his commitment to resignation point-to-point the amount in his SALN [statement of assets, liabilities and net worth], that's the preparation for that," that was requested in his SALN letters than go said to use the President of any perceived action of vengeance against him."

Officials of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) hailed the court ruling.

Opportunity for greatness

"We are calling on President Aquino to execute the prompt distribution of the land," said Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chair of the CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action.

Pabillo challenged the President to set aside personal interests and ensure that his government immediately passes the distribution of farmer-beneficiaries and provide a budget for support services.

Bishop Pabillo Aquino has the golden opportunity to seriously implement [land reform] in the country and become great in the eyes of the farmers. I hope he would take seriously the decision of the high court and that he would be able to gain, minority not his power to help the poor," said Pabillo, now Church-run Radio Veritas on Wednesday.

CBCP President Lipa Archbishop Jose Palma said, "I hope the land will eventually be distributed to the farmers and so we can show that in our country we can be volunteers to the dismay of justice and giving the poor their rightful dues."

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said it was the duty of the President to uphold the spirit of the law for the poor farmers. "My call to President Aquino is to continue to advance the welfare of our farmers because it's his responsibility as the head of the country," said Iñiguez. *With reports from Christine D. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Ty*

New ARMM greeted with hope, caution by Mindanao leaders

From page A1

of discussion that appear to conflict the language, arguments of long ago," said Vice Mayor Macabilin Sema of Cotabato City, a leader of a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He expressed support for the outcome of the negotiations between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panels in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

The two sides agreed to commit to work for the creation of a political entity in place of the ARMM, ensuring the issues in the 1996 agreement that they signed.

The document outlining "41 decision points on principles" will serve as "general directions of the substantive negotiations" geared at crafting a political settlement to end over four decades of Moro rebellion in Mindanao.

Unimplemented provisions

Sema, however, reminded the government to eliminate the unimplemented provisions of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement entered into between the MNLF of Nur Misuari and the government under then President Fidel Ramos.

"Although it appears that these 41 major provisions [in the 1996 MNLF peace pact] have been included in the ramnotes of discussion points, we might as well even say Expert that both panels would end up signing an official peace document that the Bangsamoro people would be passed of," Sema said.

He said the new political Bangsamoro entity that would replace the ARMM should be a more effective one "where the inhabitants are truly autonomous."

Hadi Misuari, leader of another MNLF faction, refused to issue a statement.

But other local government leaders gave positive reactions.

Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles said there was nothing to be bothered about regarding the agreement. "I am sure people will be consulted," he said.

"[Chief government negotiator Marvic] Leonen is a good lawyer and the MILF side can appreciate deal will be acceptable to all sides. So we must not preempt any other being unilateral... so because he says everyone will be consulted," Cerilles said.

Proposed Moro substate

The MILF's proposed substate covers the current ARMM in the core territories Add to this the six Lanao del Norte towns where voters opted to be part of the regional government on 31 1989, and 700 adjacent barangays were predominantly Moro population, subject to the residents' consent through a plebiscite.

Last year, the government panel said the proposed boundary would account for just 17 percent of Mindanao's land area.

The geographic scope of a new autonomous government for the Moro people has yet to be defined, according to Leonen.

Besides Rep. Bai Hamamin said if a new autonomous government was in the offing, "there will be a plebiscite on that and new laws will have to be enacted."

Hamamin said the ultimate goal is to achieve "lasting peace agreement where everyone is filled, is consulted, not just the Muslims but also the indigenous peoples and the Christian communities."

Zamboanga Sibugay Gov. Rommel Jakosalem said, "We will just support whatever law in Congress Sibugay is not going to be part of its substate."

But South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy cautioned the government, saying the latest agreement is signed with the MILF and not with all Moros.

"We need to know the sentiments of the people, not just of the rebel groups," Pingoy said.

Secular political unit

Leonen characterized the proposed political entity as "a secular political unit existing within the Republic of the Philippines, located within its territory (and) subject to its sovereignty as a state."

The recent consensus, which was reached last December and formalized into a document last February, is the sixth time the Bush road-bones of political concessions are being formed up in an effort to address the roots of the Moro rebellion.

But it was only the second time for such a process to be done within the context of peace negotiations.

The first was through the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 reached through a Libyan-brokered negotiations. That time, the MNLF hoisted its pressure from Muslim countries to clinch its intermediary campaign and ceasefire with the government, but eventually Moro dominated more.

But the MNLF and government took 20 years to agree on the modality of implementing the 1976 pact.

The collapsed talks under the Tripoli Agreement was supposed of to the territory of what used to be the Moro Province plus thirteen province and its capital, Puerto Princesa City.

The Moro Province was a special government unit from 1963 to 1973. During the reign of Ferdinand Marcos' colonial period, comprising the five districts of Cotabato, Davao, Lanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, which are historically Moro dominated and governed areas.

In 1976, these districts became the "regular provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato, and other cities of Iligan, Marawi, Cotabato, Dipolog, Dapitan, Zamboanga, Digadan and General Santos.

Today, five more provinces were added: Sarangani which was carved out of South Cotabato, and Zamboanga Sibugay, which previously was part of Zamboanga del Sur.

There are five more cities: Isabela and Lamitan in Basilan, Kidapawan in North Cotabato, Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat and Koronadal in South Cotabato.

In a plebiscite in 1989, only the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi joined the ARMM. Cotabato City opted to be part of the ARMM as part of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said a century of being governed under a unitary political system has failed the Bangsamoro and to be a predominantly Moro-populated Moro Province under the form of "autonomous" so, this, who are ruled by migrants.

"We also lose most of our natural lands... Through legislated land guidelines, only around 12 to 15 percent of our original landholdings remain in our hands, all the rest were lost forever," Iqbal said.

No confederatory powers

But Iqbal said the MILF proposal for a comprehensive solution would not grant the future Moro self-governing entity with confederatory powers over property.

"Rather, it will recognize and respect vested properties rights, although MNLF-titled lands through Fundacion schemes will certainly be dealt with through the appropriate judicial processes," he added.

"We are only aiming to protect what remained with us now," Iqbal said.

Jesus Dureza, former presidential adviser for Mindanao, said negotiating peace was not about "winning" but to achieve task of the two sides but a continued effort of all stakeholders.

"It's a virtual stalemate. Now to make it concrete is crucial. It's also a road map that everyone must travel together. Once the other stakeholders don't will come around and converge with their interest the final trajectory," Dureza said in statement sent to the bayanan.

"Despite the euphoria it truly deserves, the framework agreement is not the end of the road. The final peace agreement that follows must make done. Most importantly, the government and MILF panels now need everybody's support to make it happen," he added.

Preliminary testing

Leonen said the recently signed document was a "preliminary listing of common points, which the parties have eventually identified, coming from their respective initial positions."

The framework agreement was embodied in its February 2013 Revised Comprehensive Compact, although Leonen noted several points in their discussions when the rebel group's position had gone beyond the document.

"Nevertheless, the framework of government spelled out in the decision points 'can be properly accommodated by our current legislated political realities,'" *Report from Ryan B. Rosauro, Charlie C. Tubeza, Julie F. Olipedo and Jeoff Ray Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

P-Noy's LP, Villar's NP talk coalition

From page A1

In fact, the NP of outgoing Sen. Manuel Villar, for instance, has two subscriptions—the LP of President Aquino and the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay and lawyer President Joseph Estrada.

LP spokesperson Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III said yesterday that the LP was willing to meet Senate with the NP to come up with a consensus candidate for 2013.

Tañada, a Quezon representative, said NP members were welcome to join the LP coalition although the two parties were through an arrangement presidential campaign in 2013.

Mr. Aquino's "stand to date" (despite partial campaign slogans that he has said from the Cory's Mar and U.S. road extension underscores, in which Villar was accused of using his post-listed to build roads that were sought to his individuals projects.

In the middle of the campaign, Villar challenged Binay presidential candidate Aquino to take a mental fitness test. But it was Villar who was the first presidential candidate to concede defeat to Mr. Aquino.

"That's not 2013. We are looking beyond 2013," said Tañada.

Tañada said the LP was focus on getting the aide of Senator Villar, former Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, and three undersecretaries—Secretary Francis Escudero, Aquilino Pimentel III and also Sen. Pete Cayetano—for the administration coalition's senatorial slate.

"Basta, sa pinakita LP standard of candidate himself, until the LP was also looking to add Binhen, an NP member, to its senatorial slate.

Tañada said the LP was looking at "candidates who believe in The President's reform agenda and value, who are willing to push it in his last three years in office."

Other factors

Barbers, however, said that UNA, particularly the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino Lakas, which is headed by Binay, has been sending "feelers" to the NP after the latter announced in February that it was open to an election alliance for 2013.

For a coalition to happen, Barbers said, not only the acquiescence of the other party's leadership, but by with the people—it's "

Asked if the LP was willing to accommodate the senatorial candidates of the NP Allied, without endorsing, since "Not a done deal yet."

The LP is confident with the senatorial political lineup it has gone with being the leader of the ruling coalition, which includes having to accommodate candidates of political parties with which it has an existing alliance in both the House of Representatives and the local governmental level.

On the issue of connection to the inclusion in the LP-led administration senatorial slate of Binhen, Cayetano and Cynthia Villar, all three are running on the BP ticket for 2013.

The NP leaves the political scene after it started talking with the LP and Barbers, who's also named by Senator Villar, the NP president, to the two opposition seats to lead a bolder slate for the mid-term polls of party-list bets.

Except Lakas-Kampi

Tañada said the LP was open to inviting candidates from other parties except the Lakas-Kampi of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales, an Arroyo ally, said the goal of LP's coalition building was to get at least 16 senators to oust impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona. The Corona impeachment trial is set to resume on May 7.

"These moves are in the realm of pragmatic politics. I am hopeful they will not use a due in the LP coalition just to influence the outcome of the Corona impeachment trial," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

He said it would be a pity if the trial would not be judged on the merits of the case.

The NP has four votes in the Senate—Villar, Sotto and "Boying" Remulla, and the Cayetano siblings, Alan Peter and Pia.

Escudero is an independent while Pimentel is a member of the PDP-Laban, which has formed UNA with Perlas ng Silangang Pilipino of Estrada.

Tañada and Gonzales denied the "coalition" is a ploy to "Divide and Conquer" the opposition.

Opportunity for greatness

"We are calling on President Aquino to execute the prompt distribution of the land," said Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chair of the CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action.

Pabillo challenged the President to set aside personal interests and ensure that his government immediately passes the distribution of farmer-beneficiaries and provide a budget for support services.

Bishop Pabillo Aquino has the golden opportunity to seriously implement [land reform] in the country and become great in the eyes of the farmers. I hope he would take seriously the decision of the high court and that he would be able to gain, minority not his power to help the poor," said Pabillo, now Church-run Radio Veritas on Wednesday.

CBCP President Lipa Archbishop Jose Palma said, "I hope the land will eventually be distributed to the farmers and so we can show that in our country we can be volunteers to the dismay of justice and giving the poor their rightful dues."

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said it was the duty of the President to uphold the spirit of the law for the poor farmers. "My call to President Aquino is to continue to advance the welfare of our farmers because it's his responsibility as the head of the country," said Iñiguez. *With reports from Christine D. Avendaño and Jocelyn R. Ty*

NP is nation's oldest party

THE NACIONALISTA Party (NP), the country's oldest political party, was formed on April 29, 1907, when veterans pro-independence parties merged to "counter the efforts of the Bull Philippine Assembly.

The NP has produced six Philippine presidents—Manuel Quezon, Jose Laurel, Sergio Osmeña Jr., Carlos Garcia, Ramon Magsaysay and Ferdinand Marcos.

Ll leaders Abad and Cavite Rep. Joseph E.A. Abaya makes raised doubts about Binay's stand on the President's reform agenda, including opposition to the Corona trial.

Tañada said LP had no intentions of "politicizing" the Corona impeachment trial by using the LP coalition announced aims as a bargaining chip.

LP leadership meeting

The LP leadership has yet to meet on the said of Binay to decide whether it would form a coalition slate.

Tañada said LP would then decide which parties it would associate with and the potential candidates it would accept into the fold.

The LP has already met with the Liberal Party (LP) and the Nacionalista Party (NP) to discuss the possible alliance for the May 2013 elections.

Barbers said that the SO are looking for elements on the part of the LP which would come to the form of a "concrete basis for the selection [as] ranges of both parties."

The Senate president said he would be open to work with parties based on the platform of governance and not on personalities. "It's high time that we enter in the way politics is done in this country," he said.

The Liberal Party was founded on Jan. 19, 1946, by Manuel Roxas from what was once the "Liberal Wing" of the old NP.

Roxas was the first president from the Philippine Republic.

Inquirer Research

Source: Nacionalista Party website, Liberal Party website, and Inquirer Archives

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Bawat Pilipino MIYEMBRO
Bawat miyembro PROTEKTADO
Kalusugan natin SEGURADO

PhilHealth

Bodies of slain seamen arrive

By Tina G. Santos

THE BODIES of the two Filipino seamen who died during an Iranian Navy operation for the rescue of the crew of a hijacked ship off the southeastern coast of India last month finally arrived home yesterday.

The remains of Glicerio Montesa and Stephen Tindoncente arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia) aboard a Qatar Airways flight around 8:30 a.m.

They were among the 30 Filipinos on the 13-member crew of the Iranian-owned, Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier Iglotrotter, which Somali pirates seized on March 20.

Montesa and Tindoncente died at the height of the rescue mission executed by the Iranian Navy on April 2. The rescue operation lasted two days and ended with the arrest of 12 pirates.

Montesa, 33, a native of Meycauayan, Quezon, was hit in the head by a bullet fired by the rescuing pirates.

Tindoncente, 33, of Iloilo, suffered an attack while awake in the vessel's hacking region were, where he fell during the gun battle.

The eight Filipino survivors, who arrived home earlier this month, said the pirates bound the crew members and the fire fight with the Iranian rescue team shields during crossfire.

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TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	**Holy Mass**	PPMC Boardroom
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	**Opening of Trade Fair**	PPMC Grounds
2:30 AM - 3:00 PM	**Initial performance by the Philippine Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Team**	From Thunderbird Resorts Main Entrance to Thunderbird Resorts Boardwalk
3:00 PM	**Assembly of Boats**	Brgy. Poguidpod Beach Area
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	**Air Show**	Thunderbird Resorts Boardwalk
	Ultralight Aircraft Formation Flying	
	Ultralight Aircraft Flyby	
	Paragliding Exhibition	
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	**Children's Show**	Thunderbird Resorts Boardwalk & Amphitheater
4:15 PM - 4:45 PM	**Signing of Memorandum of Agreement on the Adopt - A - Lighthouse Project**	Lighthouse Area
	Unveiling of Courses of Proposed Development	
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	**Main Performance by the Philippine Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Team**	Thunderbird Resorts Open Space
	Silent Drill Exhibition	
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	**Lantern Revival Parade**	From Brgy. Poguidpod to Thunderbird Resorts
6:15 PM - 7:00 PM	**Performance by Philippine Marine Band**	Amphitheater
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	**Hope Lanterns**	Thunderbird Resorts Boardwalk
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	**Program at the Amphitheater**	Amphitheater
	Concert featuring 4 Cycle Mind	
9:30 PM - 10:00 PM	**Pyromusical Show**	Lighthouse Area

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OPINION

Boost to land reform

THE DECISION of the Supreme Court to reject with finality the bid of President Aquino's Cojuangco clan to get compensation for Hacienda Luisita based on 2006 prices, which would have allowed the clan to secure at least P5 billion, has cleared the way for a full implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), a generation after it was passed. The sugar plantation in the country's most controversial land reform case. It has been described as a "Pyrrhic win" for the high court, and it has raised doubt that a genuine Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is possible in a democratic setting.

EDITORIAL

Going by the numbers, the vote in the Supreme Court is overwhelming. Although the justices voted 8-6 with one abstention to base the value of Luisita at around P196 million based on 1989 prices, the decision mostly affirmed their ruling of Nov. 22, 2011, in which they reminded the stock distribution option (SDO) and voted 14-0 to distribute the vast estate.

By Luisita's shrewd use (more than 6,000 hectares), whatever happens there is expected to determine the resolution of other land reform cases. In fact, the extension of the CARL, which was supposed to lapse in 2009 and which led to the passage of the CARP Extension with Reforms (Corpex) law, had been premised on the need to allow more time to resolve such burning cases.

As many as 4,915.75 hectares are covered by the SDO program, which was approved in November 1989. Of that number, 4,335 hectares will now be distributed to farmworker-beneficiaries or their successors in interest, who number 6,296.

The justices still need to qualify whether their landmark ruling is "issue jus tuas," a legal term stipulating that a ruling cannot be used as basis for similar cases. This must be made clear because the high court has to resolve 13 other land reform cases. Moreover, considering its record of flip-flopping, as shown by its rulings on the case of Philippine Airlines flight attendants and stewards, the high court might change its mind suddenly. But we have the assurance of its spokesperson, Midas Marquez, that the ruling is "final and executory," and that the high court will not entertain further pleadings and motions for reconsideration on the dispute that took 27 years to resolve.

What should concern everyone now is the government's capability to implement that final ruling. Antonio Lopez, a spokesperson of Hacienda Luisita Inc., said HLI "will abide and comply with what is required by the decision." In addition, Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes said he would turn the land distribution "immediately." Before that, however, the Department of Agrarian Reform will have to conduct the valuation and inspection of the estate, as well as the identification of the beneficiaries. He promised to do all these steps simultaneously, but the whole process is expected to take about a year.

Much will depend on the willingness of HLI to cooperate with agrarian reform officials. It will behoove to those in not (more) in 1989, the year the Supreme Court said the value of the property should be set by an ordinance with the aborted SDO scheme announced not that year between the management and the farm workers.

Moreover, HLI may still question that compensation has not yet by the high court with the DAR Adjudication Board. DAR officials said this would not hamper the pre-distribution process, but considering that the case has dragged on for more than a quarter of a century, their optimism must be taken with a grain of salt. In any event, it's a vast case for the Cojuangco clan's willingness to abide by the ruling of the high court and come to terms with social justice.

What is needed is vigilance. Farmers, the Church and other agrarian reform advocates must be vigilant until the land is finally awarded to the rightful beneficiaries. The ruling represents a victory for social justice and reparation; it represents a boost for democratic egalitarianism. Authentic land redistribution in the Philippines has always been cast in doubt because of the social, political and economic elites' influence on the levers of power and decision-making. In contrast, successful land redistributions in Japan after World War II and in Taiwan after the death of Chiang Kai-Shek was carried out by dictatorships.

The next months will see whether the Supreme Court decision on Hacienda Luisita will finally advance the line President Corazon Aquino's centerpiece program or further hammer the cynical view that authentic land reform is a pipe dream in a democracy.

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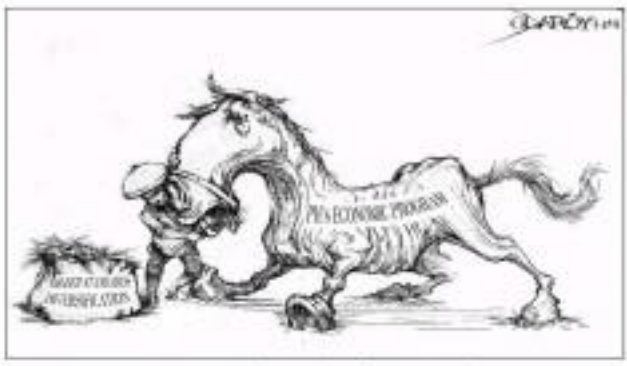

Is CA on the side of criminals?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT HAPPENED to the Court of Appeals? Is it on the side of truth and justice, or the criminals? I ask the question because two recent cases, both involving public officials, decided by it seem to have allowed the accused to escape laughing, free as birds, and left the families of their victims crying. (The murders were committed decades ago, but the appeals to the accused were decided by the CA only recently.)

One is the double murder case in Baguio town, Cagayan, where Divina Jacinto declared ill was convicted of killing two poll watchers of his father's political rival. Antipardo divorced the case to the CA where they were lingered for 17 years, and Cipriano request, 17 justices inhibited themselves from the case one after another. Who were the justices so scared to handle the case? Doesn't that make you wonder?

Finally, Justice Edwin Sorongon granted the motion of the Special Trial Court Antipardo filed a motion for reconsideration with a plea for Sorongon to inhibit himself, which he, however promptly did. The case was raffled, again, and landed on the lap of Justice Noel Tijam.

But here is the 84-million question: Although Antipardo was convicted of two capital offenses—one murder and one homicide—he was granted bail. This is contrary to jurisprudence. In the case of Senator Benigno Ninoy Aquino Jr., for instance, he remains in prison while his motion for reconsideration and motion for bail are being heard. What's so special with Antipardo?

The other case involves the murder in December 1997 of brothers Michael and Paul Quintos while at a party in Mambaseno, Occidental Mindoro. Charged were former Representative Villarosa, named as the mastermind, and 17 co-accused. Villarosa is the ex-husband of former Rep. Ricarda Quintos, father of the two victims. Villarosa is also the husband of Rep. Amelita Villarosa, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, chosen only after the impeachment of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the alleged "bagman" who real, actually and publicly admitted that Kampi was the source of the P500,000 given to each congressman who attended a Malacañang meeting years ago.

Villarosa et al. appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals. In December 2000, Justice Salvador Nachura, then Solicitor General, recommended the acquittal of Villarosa. Less than 60 days after the filing of that manifestation, Nachura was appointed to the Supreme Court.

Villarosa's appeal was assigned to the 6th Division of the CA, which reinstated him hastily although there were two motions still pending.

The 5th division reasoned that while conspiracy existed and that the gunmen and lookouts played out their respective roles and therefore deserved to be convicted, there was no mastermind. It added that while the confession of a gunman was ruled to be hill evidence and was sufficient to uphold his conviction and those of his co-conspirators, insofar as Villarosa was concerned, that confession cannot be used.

According to a statement by the group Justice for Paul and Michael Quintos, the CA "disregarded the consistent testimony, such as the established linkage between Villarosa and the gunmen before, during and after the murders, and that Villarosa gave financial assistance to the gunmen as proven by the encashed checks that were presented as evidence."

The CA also ignored the testimony of Lt. Col. Winston Rhodes recounting how, four months prior to the murders, he attempted to arrest one of the gunmen on a robbery charge only to be prevented by Villarosa. The gunmen eventually disappeared, only to be seen again on the night of Dec. 12, 1997, reportedly shooting Michael Quintos until he was out of bullets. A few weeks after his damaging testimony against Villarosa, Colonel Rhodes was murdered.

The CA also disregarded the sworn statement of one of the hitmen who disappeared from Mindoro right after the murders, only to be arrested in 2000 working as a security guard allegedly for an agency where Rep. Amelita Villarosa had been a long-time officer," the group said.

It said that while the hitman was in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation, even by virtue of an outstanding warrant of arrest, "Congressman Villarosa and her lawyer rushed to the NBI and tried to have the self-confessed hitman released in their custody, but this was aborted by the timely arrival and vigorous protest of former Commissioner Joaquin Bernas."

The group continued: "Meanwhile, Malacañang, in rather bad taste, immediately congratulated Congresswoman Villarosa for her 'victory' in court. The acquittal apparently did murders to Villarosa's benefit, since he had been confined for months at the Makati Medical Center recuperating from major lung surgery. He walked out of the hospital and into the afternoon the CA promulgated its decision."

In October 2011, the Solicitor General questioned before the Supreme Court the authority of the Court of Appeals to review and revise the rulings of the RTC in criminal court proceedings by life imprisonment.

Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz al. so asked the high court to rule, "a second look" at its decision in the case ignited Ilden Madera, which paved the way for the CA to amend the judgment of lower courts in criminal cases.

"The CA acted without jurisdiction when it took cognizance of and decided the case of Villarosa et al.," the SolGen told the Supreme Court. "The conviction should have been automatically elevated to the Supreme Court since all the accused were meted out the penalty of death."

Again, what's happening to the Court of Appeals?

Framing the Scarborough debate

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE PHILIPPINES is right in distinguishing our claim over land (not from) over the waters at Scarborough, but strategically we are better off focusing on the nature over which we have a more logical claim. Although the Philippines is a coastal state, there is no difficulty to imagine that China would have spending for a fight to secure its place among world powers.

We must remember that China's claim is not to the Law of the Sea (LOS). The intrusion was committed in the waters (not on the land), when Chinese vessels harvested endangered marine species being protected by the Philippines under its treaty obligation on "endangered species of wild fauna and flora." The Philippine presence was completely benign—a marine archaeological survey team sent by the National Museum, and which was constantly harassed by the Chinese boats.

These waters undeniably lie within our country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf (CS) over which we have "sovereign rights" to exploit and conserve natural resources. The question is not justifiable. Is Scarborough (or, as it is also known, Panatag Shoal) a rock entitled to 200 nautical miles out of Limestone, and not EEZ and CS related to 200 nautical miles from our coasts. The waters undeniably belong to us, even if hypothetically the land is not ours.

Finally, the EEZ and CS are secured by the LOS Convention, a treaty that both the Philippines and China have signed.

In your text, in Scarborough, the only land at stake are rocks that are not habitable by human economy or high tide. The spot of what we call Scarborough Shoal are "low-tide elevations" that be "above water at low tide but level submerged at high tide." They are located entirely within the 200-mile territorial waters which belong to the Philippines' EEZ. They do not generate any territorial sea of their own.

Neither are these low rocks considered "islands" defined by the LOS as "land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide." They are generate an EEZ and CS only if they are islands. However, they are more "rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own" that generate only an EEZ or CS and at best generate merely a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea.

That is why even if the low rocks belong to China, all it gets is a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea around the rocks—not 200 nautical miles EEZ and CS. This offers minimal economic benefits. Its only other plausible value is military, as a base that can be built up, but that would only be to extend a claim about the dark side of China's "peaceful rise." Even China would downplay such aspirations.

Worse, whereas our claim over the waters is founded on waters and bounds laid down as a treaty that even China accepts, our claim over the land is founded on mere "discovery" that requires us to demonstrate effective control. What's the point there of the Philippines depriving its legal accusations over the rocks, when its claim over the waters is rock-solid (pun intended)?

We must also try to look at Scarborough from the China's side. We shouldn't assume that China need its boats in Scarborough deliberately to set up a trade station. There's as little as under there that would only be symbolic posturing by an upstart world power. Perhaps they are there to make a show boss at Scarborough where China's just one party proposal, rather than it is the "Middle Kingdom" (or Somtaya or the Republic of China) that is governed by several factory states.

But if the goal was to send a signal to the world, why choose a rocky shoal where its claim rests on shaky legal ground? Wouldn't China send a stronger signal if it ravishes its claim in law? Or perhaps the signal is even stronger if the world meekly acquiesces to China's claim? Or, finally, is it only belatedly that the Filipinos and potential them to the ground, as the world watches.

Moreover, the rhetoric about China's supposed historic claims relies on the emotional appeal to nationalism that should instill for real. It is linguistic subtle matters. Worse, at the moment, China might presently be more susceptible to pressure today.

The International Crisis Group, in independent think tank with offices in Brussels and Beijing, has pointed out that even before the Beijing has pointed out that even before the Scarborough standoff, China's policy on the South China Sea has been bedeviled by "nine dragons on one sea," referring to the multiplicity of government agencies competing for a say on the issue, approaching them half and possibly their budgets, terrorist threatening domestic agendas with lobbyist policy agencies.

Compound that with the internal power struggle among China's elites, exposed by the suspension on (sensitive charge) of Bo Xilai, erstwhile rising star of the Chinese Communist Party. He was a "princeling" as the patience of Chinese politics, one of a variety of the Long March elite, they become one of the party elders, and his fall exposed ideological divisions among China's elites. His wife, alongside, is currently under investigation for the murder of a British businessman, Neil Heywood.

For China, now is the worst time and the worst place to attack to the Chinese to for a lasting solution to its protracted territorial dispute with its neighbors. For the Philippines, the Scarborough standoff is an excellent test case. The Filipino hosts received scientists doing archaeological research. The Chinese boats carried illegal fishermen, killing corals and endangered species. They were not EEZ created by a treaty recognized by both us and China. Standing our ground as a country should? Or let it.

MFIs should think out of the box

COMMENTARY

Gemma Rita R. Martin
Asks: Can of business or Church and Social Issues

TODAY'S COMPLEX and competitive markets offer many opportunities for innovation. Two days ago, the buyer's Talk of the Town featured ways to produce consumer products from these common byproducts: candles and desserts with soya sauce, boba juice and sports drink from coconut water, and various food preparations using cassava flour. Such innovative products not only present alternative income-generating opportunities for the small-scale farmer, but offer healthful options to consumers as well. These are indeed delightful prospects to a sector whose woes sometimes simply end up as copra or coconut oil.

It is no different with microfinance. After more than 20 years of the industry in the country, microfinance institutions (MFIs) continually challenged by the twin issues of financial sustainability and social performance are forever innovating.

Microfinance is the deposit and loan services set with Common Bank explained to Ellie Tolay on "Big" asked her, "Angie Weston for Innovative Foundation, and those in Mindy Inc., which have grown to be solid financial service providers for low-income earners in their areas. Their success has inspired the establishment of many others, which are involved with microfinance and be counted among those who reach out to the poor and marginalized in society. The government supports the industry through an enabling policy environment. It formed the National Credit Council, tasked primarily to recommend various government lending programs and encourage more private sector participation. Through Administrative Order 140 issued in 1994, it also established the People's Credit and Finance Corp. to provide wholesale credit funds to MFIs. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has recognized several kinds of deposit-taking expansion through its no-branching policy in early 2000. BSP performed the operating of new banks only if these were microfinance-oriented. It also offered a rediscounting window to help MFIs leverage their funds.

However, despite these initiatives, the MFI industry is still characterized by a "center" of relatively large and established players and a "periphery" of smaller, newer and emerging players that are legacy of nature's riches is preserved and enjoyed by generations to come. This may be the reason that environment leaders 10 years ago chose to name us second to reach the discovery of Earth. Day after Father Ben, Father Ben appears his marvelous but also to encourage both individual and institutional efforts to continue his work.

But, as Environment Secretary Ramon Paje pointed out in his speech at the painting of the 10 Best Barkan Awards last March, "the challenge is to do for the sense of preserving the environment. "We are losing one tree every 36 days," he said, noting the monthly death toll among the hopelessly outnumbered forest guards and rangers in the country's protected areas. "Imagine the loss if we lose one tree every 36 days," he said. "I don't think Father Ben would be very happy," Paje observed.

* * *

BINGO, leading the awardees were two individuals who gained the attention for their advocacy. Dr. Dan B. D. Binalo Tantiado, known among his flock as "Father Dan," who was nominated on the grounds of his parish church in Isabela Valley, in the diocese of Kalinga-apayao. He championed the rights of indigenous communities and farmers, having relentless pressure from those who would exploit the resources. In his response, Father Ambassador Luis Fortuni pointed out that the best way to honor the memory of Father Pepe is to continue the work he started. "He needed no tribute, and that the people he loved would enjoy true justice and development.

The other posthumous awardee was Melanie Bitara, a forest specialist with the DENR who was killed in her office by unidentified assailants last December. Bitara was recognized because of her resolve to directly address the big ban in the forests of Caraquet.

Joining them were the local governments of Guimaras, Bangsamoro, led by Mayor Florencio Briguera with Peregrine Cruz-Amador, and Quezon, Jr., for the city's massive reforestation and clean-up greening initiatives in the Bundred Islands, and the province of Bicol, for its initiative to produce "eco-friendly detergent" from the trees of water material in the handfish, with the cooperation of the private sector.

* * *

THE OTHER categories of awardees were acknowledging carbon footprints in green building and energy conservation, including the first fully integrated and religious structure in the country, the chapel at the Greenhead Seminary, in the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod. Building extensively with bamboo, the chapel is also the first energy-efficient building in the province, and the Zuelig building, the first Philippine high-rise pre-certified with a gold level recognition under the international recognized LEED.

In the category of disaster risk reduction and management, among those recognized were the Manila Cathedral-Basilica Foundation for its devotion to close down the structure to prevent potential harm while it is undergoing repairs; the August Inan management and Bulacan provincial government for their timely response to shoreline erosion; and Look Technologies Corp. in Bicol, founded by Br. Antino Arboleda for the development of the new internationally recognized technology of cross fiber in construction.

Recognized, too, were the "young people's period" were Bayer's youth leadership programs that develop environmental awareness among the country's young people, and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches for getting different churches to make environmental stewardship a priority and to initiate climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In the field of socio-cultural communication and education, the Caritas Youth Ensemble was recognized for the use of recycled bottles as musical instruments for which they have participated in several concerts here and abroad, and the Cebuano Seven who win audiences over with a youth environmental repertoire.

There were two international awardees. Ban Ki-moon with Peregrine Cruz-Amador and Ms. Jr., for the city's massive reforestation and clean-up greening initiatives in the Bundred Islands, and the province of Bicol, for its initiative to produce "eco-friendly detergent" from the trees of water material in the handfish, with the cooperation of the private sector.

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HIGHLIGHT those were the media awardees, including this columnist, broadcast journalist Arnold Clavio, children's media columnist Frank Rivera, the Kapatan para sa Kalikasan Forum, and environmental lawyers Gary Alejandro and Jun Lit, and UNS or Global News Network.

In my short remarks, I said that I felt like me, the people could be the least deserving awardees for we did nothing but observe, report, document, and write stories about truth. He stands other people had sacrificed their lives. Still, it is an honor to join myself with the memory of people like Father Pepe, Melanie Olivan and Fr. Ted Tiano.

Heroes and martyrs

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

INVENTORIES years ago, on Oct. 16, 1995, Fr. Ben's Isabi was on his way back to Valencia town (now city) in Bukidnon with a female aide when they were ambushed by a group of armed men. He was shot (probably with a shotgun after he left from his motorcycle, and his head was smashed with the butt of his rifle, too.

It was clear why Father Ben was assassinated. He was No. 13 in the list of 43 members of the clergy who were deported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as "foreign personnel" upon the request of then Malacañang Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora (who he named as Duterte of Manila and a cardinal). So strong was Father Ben's nonattachment in his calling as a forest guardian that he refused to leave the area even when he received death threats. He was also instrumental in the Manobo community to actively protect the forest, at one time even throwing their bodies in front of a truck to thwart the plans of loggers.

Father Ben is indeed a "hero" of the environment, a "martyr" for the cause of protecting and preserving that our legacy of nature's riches is preserved and enjoyed by generations to come. This may be the reason that environment leaders 10 years ago chose to name us second to reach the discovery of Earth Day after Father Ben, and also appoint his marvelous but also to encourage both individual and institutional efforts to continue his work.

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* * *

BINGO, leading the awardees were two individuals who gained the attention for their advocacy. Dr. Dan B. D. Binalo Tantiado, known among his flock as "Father Dan," who was nominated on the grounds of his parish church in Isabela Valley, in the diocese of Kalinga-apayao. He championed the rights of indigenous communities and farmers, having relentless pressure from those who would exploit the resources. In his response, Indian Ambassador Luis Fortuni pointed out that the best way to honor the memory of Father Pepe is to continue the work he started. "He needed no tribute, and that the people he loved would enjoy true justice and development.

The other posthumous awardee was Melanie Bitara, a forest specialist with the DENR who was killed in her office by unidentified assailants last December. Bitara was recognized because of her resolve to directly address the big ban in the forests of Caraquet.

Joining them were the local governments of Guimaras, Bangsamoro, led by Mayor Florencio Briguera with Peregrine Cruz-Amador, and Quezon, Jr., for the city's massive reforestation and clean-up greening initiatives in the Bundred Islands, and the province of Bicol, for its initiative to produce "eco-friendly detergent" from the trees of water material in the handfish, with the cooperation of the private sector.

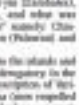
* * *

THE OTHER categories of awardees were acknowledging carbon footprints in green building and energy conservation, including the first fully integrated and religious structure in the country, the chapel at the Greenhead Seminary, in the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos in Bacolod. Building extensively with bamboo, the chapel is also the first energy-efficient building in the province, and the Zuelig building, the first Philippine high-rise pre-certified with a gold level recognition under the international recognized LEED.

In the category of disaster risk reduction and

Pirates of the Visayas in China

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

PUBLIC THOSE are many references to the Philippines in ancient Chinese sources, only a handful are available in English, all reproduced, wholly or partly, in the first chapter of "The Chinese Community in the Philippines" by Chen Ching-ho (Tokyo, 1968). Surely, the Heritage Center in Intramuros founded by Tessie Sang-Lee or the Bl. Carlos Luwang Center for Chinese Studies at San Beda College University can conduct research and translations to fill the gaps in our early history. The standoff between the Philippines and China in the disputed Spratly islands led me to two 14th-century references in the Philippines. The first is that mention of water in Sanskrit

Polls as escape route

LETTERS

ELECTIVE OFFICE is an escape route that has been used by criminals to avoid prosecution and conviction for many crimes. As the 2013 elections near, the Commission on Elections may find it worthwhile to work with the judiciary and the Department of Justice to stop criminal suspects from using this escape route.

Many congress in election-related cases have just entering the local office in their areas of influence as an effective way of evading capture, incarceration, trial and conviction. The late Cebu de los Angeles of 'sugary fame' somehow use his lawyer is a Black case, and was, somewhat delaying his date of reckoning. Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sought election as representative of 2. Pampanga congressional district and won to elude herself with some congressional immunity.

So there could be wise guys in the coming 2013 elections who might try to run this strategy again. Rigoberto Tiglao's pernicious duo impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona could become president prepare that Corona run for a Congress or Senate seat in preparation for a presidential bid.

Given these previous escapes from the long arm of the law, the election commission of Rep. Rufus Rufus Jr. by a Cebu court is worth discussing. The verdict says a 10-year ban is all that sets us judges inhibiting themselves from this high-profile case which sought Rufus's conviction for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacudio. The case also included a reported guidance between the suspect's followers and government authorities who tried to arrest the suspect in the Dengue habitat for the killing of more members of the fascisted family and a neighbor by an Ilocos rule followers. Despite public coverage of the killings and the gruesome, the suspect went to a congressional. Based on past records, the congressman Judge Rufus Perez, who rendered the decision against Rufus, should be given unanimous protection by police and military authorities.

It is hoped that both Congress and the lower court dispose of the Corona trial soon. Maybe then, our good senators and congressmen will come up with a law that will discourage criminals from seeking elective office to elude Lady Justice.

—JESS FRIAS,
jfrias@gmail.com

HRET ruled Lucy's substitution of Richard valid

WE WRITE on behalf of our client, Rep. Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez of the fourth district of Leyte in connection with the article titled "SC won't stop CHRET from seating ex-groom vs Lucy" and written by Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer, 4/17/12).

While we appreciate Cabreza's article, we wish to clarify his erroneous report that the Supreme Court had ruled that the disqualification of Richard Gomez "rendered him a non-candidate, who therefore could not have been validly substituted, so there was no candidacy to speak of."

May we clarify that the foregoing statement was a mere allegation of Raffeñito Goddia Jr. in his election protest and not the ruling of the Supreme Court. In the interest of correct and fair reporting, we wish to point out that the decision of the Supreme Court had, in effect, found unmeritorious the allegations in the petitions of the CHRET in the election protest filed by Goddia and in the quo warranto case filed by Silvestre Bagubas, both dated March 22, 2012, which upheld Representative Torres-Gomez as the duly elected representative of the fourth district of Leyte.

Both decisions of the CHRET created all doubts as to the validity of the substitution of Representative Torres-Gomez for her husband as a candidate for the position of representative of the fourth district of Leyte and finally settled the issue of residence of spouses Richard and Lucy when the CHRET declared that Lucy Torres-Gomez is a resident of Ormoc City. We have attached copies of the decision for reference.

We hope that become readers will be fully informed of the facts of the case.

—ATTY. ALEXANDER AL. AD
MARIA CRISTINA GARCIA-RAMIREZ,
counsels for Rep. Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

(Titled to exclude the word "he," a reference to Goddia, in the Supreme Court decision's surrender of the case, which I quoted in the story. My apologies.

—VINCENT CABREZA,
correspondent,
Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Bajo' means 'shoal' in English, not 'under'

WITH ALL due respect to Fr. Joaquin Bernas and the editorial board, the Spanish word "Bajo" in Bajo de Masinloc, is not an adverb meaning "under" (MAINIL, 4/22/12), but a noun meaning "shoal" or "shallows." It does not mean "below (location)" (Bernas) or "under the waters of Masinloc" (editorial), but "the shoal or shallows of Masinloc." Masinloc being the name of the Zambales town under whose jurisdiction it has been for several centuries.

The explorer Alejandro Malaspina in his Philippine expedition of 1792-1792, sailed to and around the "Bajo de Masinloc," so he named it on a map published in 1808 in Madrid. The name "Bajo de Masinloc" is correct on other maps, especially on El Real Depot's map of 1886-1900.

—REYNALDO ILLADES JR.,
bsalvin@pldtdsl.net

Convention binds both PH, China to stop wildlife poaching

THE RIFTS to establish poaching off Scarborough Shoal, the seemingly outstanding of which is currently being contested by the Philippines and China, is to remind us that the problem will be a source of both countries, regardless of the said controversy dispute. Both parties have a responsibility to prevent poachers of marine wildlife and coral reefs, as their governments are signatories to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity or the Biodiversity Convention.

The Biodiversity Convention is an international, legally binding treaty on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and a fair and equitable sharing of from the arising from genetic resources. Among the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the convention's strategic plan for biodiversity, which was drawn up in 2010, is the reduction of the pace of loss of natural habitats by a minimum of 50 percent.

Tensions routinely raised when vessels from both countries jostled out from the area. The new legislative step is the current premise to continue the dialogue to find a peaceful resolution of territorial disputes, based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Such dialogue should be guided by the principles of the Biodiversity Convention, too. It must all efforts to resolve the long-borough dispute, where corals, giant clams and live shells were part of the bounty that Chinese poachers were able to take with them.

Failure to follow the accountability of both governments, especially because of the way President Aquino has handled this standoff. Prior rules about defending our patrimony but he failed to call the Chinese poachers. His refusal thus, the government has used the standoff with China to justify the continued military exercises of US troops on Philippine soil, despite clear mandates against the pursuit of damping oil and foreign warships into our waters, and by ing into work during naval maneuvers, and in fact live fire exercises.

Policy does not even have to look beyond issues to search for our party's many attacks. In any scenario, China must control mining expeditions are plundering minerals along the coasts of Cagayan Valley, and are pushing for large-scale mining operations in Pangasinan and Ilocos Region. US control navigation are likewise pushing mega-scale and large-scale mining projects in Bicol and Compostela Valley. The government should stop these excesses and demonstrate progress if it is to retain their sovereignty and the environment.

—FRANCES QUIMPO,
national secretary general,
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment,
21 Mahusgahin St.,
Central District,
Diliman, Quezon City

SCARBOROUGH SHOAL: more than just a territorial dispute

Cowardly poseurs don't deserve 'fearless views' space in PDI

THE PROVERBIAL "horde of lemmas" has descended upon Inquirer columnist Rigoberto Tiglao. His "no"-brewing exposure on the dubious activities of some quarters of using fascism names in writing letters to the editor.

I am appalled that these circus of Tiglao have the gall to say that the Tiglao's has "destroyed the credibility of the Letters section. The way I see it, legitimate letter writers should instead thank him for revealing a questionable practice that can only seriously undermine the believability of the Inquirer's letters to the editor in general. Instead, Tiglao's critics unfairly try to justify the use of false names, saying that the law does not affect the validity of the views expressed. What? Perhaps they forgot that there is a reason why letters to the editor are required to come personal information regarding the writer himself and that is, among others, to prevent persons who can hide their identities from making false statements. Unless you're partaking of the legitimacy of the paper to lend weight to their opinions, I also remind them that there is also a reason why the law prohibits the use of aliases, pure for malevolent purposes.

Indeed, the editorial board of the Inquirer should take a careful look at

'I just want to know the truth about my son'

By TJ Burgonio

THROUGHOUT the five years that she has been searching for her "disappeared" son, Edita Burgos says she has already exhausted many supplications from calling for justice to just wanting to find out the truth about what happened to him.

"My standards have gone down through the years. Where as before, it's say 'Give him back to me alive and well,' and let justice be served. Now I just want to find out what really happened. Because if I find out the truth, I'll also find him," she said.

"It's not even closure that I want. I just want to know what I'll pray for," she added.

Family and friends who will be joining Edita in marking the fifth year of Jonas Burgos' disappearance tomorrow are somehow sure finding the truth of what happened to him, his whereabouts or of obtaining justice for him.

Jonas is the middle son of Edita and the late Jose Burgos Jr., the legendary founder and editor of the Malaya newspaper.

Since April 28, 2007, when Jonas, then a 37-year-old agriculturist, was seized allegedly by military agents at a Quezon City mall, the Burgos family has gone to court, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and even the United Nations seeking to hold the military accountable.

The family's penthouse for a week of empanel and writ of habeas corpus are being heard by the Court of Appeals, which recently denied a motion for disclosure of the suspects' summary of information, DOSI. The military opposed the public disclosure of the DOSI.

The Department of Justice is conducting a preliminary investigation on the kidnapping and illegal detention charges against Lt. Harry Baliaga Jr., who was identified by the CHR as one of those who abducted Jonas.

"From Day One, it has been a 'series of cover-up' and stonewalling by the military which defied the Supreme Court's order to find Jonas by merely claiming he was not in their custody, according to Edita.

"I can't say there's absolutely nothing for him, what would he live? Then upon our end. If the mother gives up, then the rest of the family would give up, too," she said.

"Of course, his siblings will continue if I'm gone. Since I'm still here, I'm in the frontline because I'm afraid for them because they have their own families," she said.

Besides, the fight for justice has gone beyond Jonas, Edita said.

"The desperation is not only about Jonas. It's a bigger thing. There are other people looking for the disappeared. The search should go on," she said.

Edita has not ruled out the possibility that her son is dead but believes that whomever is responsible will have to answer for it.

"I don't deny that. There are only two things: either he's alive or not. He could have been murdered. But he can still be alive. I'm not discounting that possibility. Logically, after all these years that he has been missing, it's possible he is gone. Whatever state he's in, I'd hope to find he's at peace," she said.

Edita said she hopes feeling that was not Christmas.

"There's a feeling that a mother feels that her child is no longer being harmed. But right after the disappearance I knew that he was enduring pain. You couldn't explain it but you were troubled. I don't feel that way anymore. He must be at peace," she said.

ADB meeting of top finance men PH's 'coming-out' party

From page A1

the Philippines' image in the world community.

"The [positive] that the Philippines will get from its hosting of the event is priceless," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a round-table discussion with business editors and reporters on Wednesday night.

To create a buzz

"I am confident that [the dirt against] will create a buzz about the Philippines after attending the event," Purisima said.

He described the event as a "coming out opportunity" for the Aquino administration in showcasing the fruits of its campaign for good governance.

"The event is an opportunity for participants to share best practices," Purisima said. "In the case of the Philippines, the event will be an opportunity for the delegates to showcase or showcase the dividends of good governance and its role in building an economy."

The country's finance chief said prudent policies of the Aquino administration, which is less than two years old, had already led to significant economic benefits.

For instance, the government's policies related to debt management, revenue collection and public spending, he said, had earned the favor of portfolio investors, as manifested by the decline in investment rates on bonds sold by the government here and abroad. Reduced interest rates led to $1 billion in savings for the government in 2011 alone, he said.

Annual meetings of the ADB are a venue for policymakers and private-sector leaders in various Asian countries to discuss issues that affect the economic and social well-being of Asians, policy recommendations to improve socioeconomic status of member-countries are issued during the meetings.

High-profile delegates to the event, besides official delegations from the ADB's 67 member-countries, include heads of central banks, finance ministers, presidents and chief executive officers of international banks, officials of credit-rating agencies, representatives from the CSO, and officials from development banks in Latin America.

Representatives from various foreign news organizations are also expected to attend the event.

The event is also the 15th time that the Philippines, where the ADB has its headquarters, is hosting the governors' meeting since the bank was established in 1966.

VIP meetings

ADB Secretary Robert LT Dannoun, who was also at the launch event, said other high-profile gatherings would be held at the PICC at the same time as the board meeting.

The other meetings include those of senior officials of the G20, finance ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and chair East Asian delegate governors China, Japan and South Korea, and representatives from the Greek Triangle countries like the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Dannoun said the participants would include representatives from lower-American Development Bank (ADB) counterpart in Latin America), international credit-rating agencies Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service as well as various developmental agencies and international banks.

Home-stay experience

"There are many many meetings [that will be held], but we want this to be a personal experience for those who will come," Dannoun said.

Dannoun said the ADB had arranged a home-stay experience for delegates, in which they and their spouses (for those who are married) would spend a night in a host family's home.

"We are also implementing, for the first time, our green meeting [initiative]," Dannoun said. "We will use as little paper as possible."

Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), said the ADB event would help the country earn substantial "economic dividends."

He said that from the delegates' board and lodging expenses alone, the Philippines could already generate P100 million in revenues.

"Revenues will also be generated from the expenses of the delegates for shopping, transportation, food, etc.," Guinigundo said.

Guinigundo said the Philippines would also showcase its early achievements in poverty reduction.

While the Philippines is still confronted with a serious poverty problem, he said, the government, through the BSP, had already instituted innovative measures on reducing poverty.

Microfinance leader

One is the program helping microenterprises access bank loans. The BSP has been taking the lead in the creation of "credit surety funds" (CSF), pools of money contributed by local governments, non-government banks and cooperatives that are meant to provide guarantees to bank loans being secured by microenterprises, he said.

The CSF program deals with the problem of inaccessibility of bank loans for low-income entrepreneurs. The program, Guinigundo said, is one of the reasons the Philippines is known as one of the leaders in the promotion of microfinance.

"We are proud of our achievements in the area of microfinance, and we can share these with our foreign friends," Guinigundo said.

Cultural, social programs

Finance Undersecretary Rosalinda de Leon said cultural and social programs had been prepared for the delegates.

She said several Filipino households were tapped to host dinners for selected delegates and their spouses to experience Philippine hospitality.

Cultural shows will also be presented in between some formal meetings to entertain the guests. An entertainment program has also been prepared for the spouses of the delegates, she said.

De Leon said the PICC, owned by the BSP, had been refurbished and decorated for the event.

"We want to make them feel that it's more fun holding ADB meetings in the Philippines," Purisima said.

On logistics and security, Purisima said the Philippine National Police had been tapped to provide security service within the vicinity of the PICC, and traffic officers had been given assignments to ensure smooth transportation of delegates from their hotels to the event's venue.

It's not to scare

From page A1

mitigation as well," said John Pearson, head of the British High Commission's Southeast Asia Climate Change Network. "We don't think that just to scare people but to help them understand what will happen."

Dr Boris Mel Office Hadley Centre, a leading climate-change research body, says the Earth's average temperature would likely rise by 4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, spawning fiercer typhoons in tropical countries like the Philippines and putting a strain on food resources.

In a recent tablet of experts on climate change and its implications on human security in Hawaii City on Tuesday, the peace-building organization International Alert and the British High Commission in Singapore cited the possible impact of a warmer Earth on the Philippines.

Pearson cited the Hadley Centre study first released two years ago saying that higher temperatures would cause more severe droughts and, eventually, worse flooding due to rising sea levels in the region.

By end of century

The Hadley Centre future climate model, based on projected global greenhouse emissions, forecasts a 50-to-90 percent probability of 4 degree Celsius could hit "by the end of the century" but "will not affect all areas of all regions of the globe."

In the Philippines, for instance, the temperature rise could trigger stronger, but not necessarily more, typhoons.

"As a result of a 4-degree Celsius rise in the average global temperature, tropical cyclones could become more intensive. The potential rise in sea levels across Southeast Asia could further increase the country's vulnerability to storm surges and other coastal flooding," the Hadley study said.

The study also found that those living in low-lying urban centers like the capital cities of Manila, Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh could be particularly vulnerable to flooding because of sea-level rise.

Floods, diseases

Residents of densely populated cities like Manila, Jakarta and Bangkok may also be more vulnerable to diseases, including heat-related and water-borne illnesses like malaria and dengue.

Rising sea levels could also compromise marine resources and affect the livelihood of fisherfolk in coastal parts of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia.

"I think the vulnerability is sort of at the human security level for somewhere like the Philippines," Pearson said. "You are going to see very important parts of the community affected by climate change."

Pearson said the depletion of fish stocks and rice yield would cut the income of certain communities.

Climate change could also create conflict, especially in areas facing challenges with social integration.

Rosemary Lane Jr., International Alert country director, cited an incident in Legaspi (March) in Mayon Volcano where rising water levels created a group of "climate migrants" in a nearby community some two years ago.

"The case in Legaspi is a case of how an environmental occurrence of losing water—climate change could be one factor—could lead people to move their economies and enter new communities, therefore resulting in competition over scarce resources," Lane said.

"Climate change reinforces tensions but can also create new tensions, especially when there is a demand for resources," he added.

The increased risk of climate change could be more pronounced in communities already affected by conflict.

"People who will suffer most are [those] where the impacts are strong and they don't have the money to cope with it," Pearson said. "So the more marginal members of society, that includes people displaced by conflict, will fall into the category of those who will suffer more because they won't have the money to put in place adaptation measures to cope with climate change."

Multisectoral approach

Pearson said any response, in both adaptation and mitigation of climate-change impact, would require a multisectoral approach, as the issue is much more than just environmental concern.

"We think if you need to tackle climate change properly, you need a cross-society approach, a cross-government approach, with most agencies thinking about climate change. It doesn't mean it has to be the top priority but it does mean they have to think about the climate change aspects of the work that they do," Pearson said.

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16th day: 2 PH vessels, 2 Sino ships still at shoal

From page A1

Now over the area... was around midnight and another at 1:25 a.m. but added that the situation was "normal" and that there had been no "monitored harassment from the Chinese vessels."

A Philippine Coast Guard vessel and rescue aircraft have been posted at Panatag since the standoff began on April 10 when two Chinese vessels stopped the Philippine Navy from arresting Chinese fishing boats poaching marine life.

Del Rosario said that he and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin planned to bring up the Panatag issue in a meeting in Washington on April 30 with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

He also said that he would like to "maximize the benefits" that could be derived from the PH-US Mutual Defense Treaty. "This is a good time to do it.

What's at stake in PH-China standoff

IT STARTED like many other minor confrontations over the specks of islets dotting some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. But the risks in the latest flare up over a South China Sea shoal are much bigger than the territory itself.

Armed vessels from the Philippines and its much more powerful neighbor, China, have faced off for two weeks at the horseshoe-shaped Scarborough Shoal. Either side would consider ceding—and consequences could force clients on the whole region, and drag in the United States, too.

Here's a look at the key players, issues and what's at stake:

How it started

The Philippine Navy says it caught Chinese fishermen poaching, and on April 10 two Chinese vessels moved in to protect them. The fishing boats slipped away, leaving behind a tense standoff with each side hoping the other will pull out first.

History of flash points

The shoal, which the Philippines calls Panatag Shoal, is among 100 islands, coral outcrops and banks spread over the South China Sea—called by the Philippines West Philippine Sea—with rich fishing grounds and other resources. The biggest of these are the Spratlys, claimed all or in part by the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

There have been sporadic shoot outs at sea in the past few decades—China-Vietnam, China-Philippines, Taiwan-Vietnam and Philippines-Vietnam—with navies sinking ships and fortifying disputed islands. A major clash in 1988 between China and Vietnam killed 64 Vietnamese soldiers. China took over the Philippine-occupied Mischief Reef in a surprise mid-invasion in 1995.

There in 2002, all parties agreed to a status quo.

It largely held. Until now.

Political context

Last year, Manila accused Chinese vessels of blocking its energy exploration ships in Philippine waters and daring to scare away Philippine fishermen.

It was just a year after President Aquino took office promising to fight corruption and restore national dignity. His predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was accused of carrying up to Beijing and corrupt deals with Chinese investors. Contracts were scrapped, and Aquino turned to the country's traditional ally, the United States, just as US President Barack Obama sought to reengage in Asia.

On the other hand, China—as a rising economic and military power—is asserting territorial claims and in no mood to show weakness.

Overlapping claims

Scarborough Shoal lies within Manila's 370-kilometer (230-mile) exclusive economic zone recognized under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. But China says the Philippines is misinterpreting the law. Beijing's position is based on ancient maps, though it's unclear how much weight they carry today.

China's coup estimated to the United Nations in 2009 claims virtually the entire South China Sea, but Beijing has failed to clarify the exact extent of its claims. It turned down a Philippine invitation for international arbitration.

US role

Manila feels—and so does China—that the Philippines has US backing.

That's true up to a point.

The United States is obliged to defend the Philippines from outside aggression under a defense treaty, and has close ties with Manila's security forces in their fight against southern Muslim militants. Recently, Washington has helped modernize the poorly armed Philippine forces, particularly the Navy.

Washington angered Beijing in 2010 when it declared that unimpeded commerce and navigation of disputes in the South China Sea are in the United States' interest.

But the United States—still ever-increasing economic ties to China—has always maintained it is not taking sides.

Gas and oil factor

Some of the tensions involve competition for petroleum, it isn't clear, however, how much the region holds and most published surveys suggest little energy potential—at substantial reserves apart from natural gas.

The overlapping territorial claims make exploratory drilling difficult.

The Philippines' Malampaya and Camago fields, containing up to 4.4 trillion cubic feet (1.2 trillion cubic meters) of natural gas, are in waters claimed by China. Still, Manila has developed the fields and built a pipeline that already delivers gas that has become vital to its economy. But a Philippine plan to invite bids to explore two other areas has drawn strong Chinese protests and fears of escalating confrontations. AP

PEOPLE collect shellfish on the shore as a Coast Guard vessel patrols the sea off Puerto Princesa, Palawan province, on Tuesday.

Coast on the Law of the Sea.

Also yesterday, unidentified hackers posted a Chinese flag on the website of the Department of Budget and Management in two attacks on Wednesday according to Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

In a statement, Abad said the DBM website was under joint a security audit and "may be inaccessible until critical issues are resolved."

Travel to China

"Our initial findings show that all requested data in the website have not been compromised, and we are taking additional measures to reinforce the security of our servers and prevent future attacks," said Abad. He contacted other government agencies against similar attacks.

The presidential website, PS Gozal Gazette (www.op.gov.ph) was also attacked last Sunday by intruders traced to China. But like the DBM website, the Palace website was restored with many requests.

FOREIGN Secretary Albert del Rosario goes to Washington to bring up the Panatag issue with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on April 28.

The attacks came as the Palace pleaded to both Filipinos and Chinese to stop smashing each other in cyber space amid the tensions at Panatag Shoal.

Obama nominates Fil-Am as federal judge

From page A1

LORNA SCHOFIELD Fil-Am trailblazer

al chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA).

"It's long overdue," said lawyer Orlando Valera, executive director of the Filipino Heritage Commission in Washington, DC. "It's good for America to have diverse perspectives, whether it's national origin, gender or ideology."

Schofield, 56, is the daughter of a Filipino woman who immigrated to the United States during the post-World War II exodus of the Philippines.

Scholar at NYU

She grew up in a blue-collar community in the US Midwest where she earned a full scholarship for her undergraduate education at Northwestern University. She double majored in German and English, graduating magna cum laude in 1977. Schofield went to New York University Law School, where she was a Pomeroy scholar and became editor of the NYU Law Review.

Schofield worked at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in Singapore partner for nearly 20 years. In 1995, she became the firm's first minority partner.

She also served as an assistant US attorney in the criminal division of the Southern District of New York. She became the first Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to chair the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association, and the National Law Journal named her one of the nation's 50 most influential minority lawyers.

'Extraordinary'

"We are proud and delighted that our friend and colleague Lorna Schofield has achieved this highly deserved recognition," John S. Cleveland, co-chair of Debevoise & Plimpton's litigation department, said in a statement sent to the bureau. "She is an extraordinary lawyer and person," Kirman said.

Lawyer Jason T. Lagria, AAPA national co-chair, said he hopes Schofield's nomination would inspire members of the Fil-Am community "to follow in her footsteps."

"It is exciting to finally see a Filipino-American serving as a federal judge," Lagria said. "Growing up, I had not seen many Filipino lawyers I could look to as role models."

Lagria praised Obama for pushing through an unprecedented diversification of the federal judiciary system. When Obama took office, there were only eight AAPI female US federal judges out of 870, Lagria said. Article III judges are nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and given lifetime tenure.

"In just over three years Obama has doubled the number of AAPI federal judges," Lagria said. "His nomination of Attorney Schofield affirms his administration's commitment to the Filipino American community and to have a judiciary that reflects the nation it serves."

Rosie O'Donnell's lawyer

Schofield was thrust into the limelight when she led the defense team of celebrity talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell in a $100 million lawsuit brought against the TV celebrity in 2001.

She once more gained wide attention after US Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) recommended her to the White House on Jan. 23 as a candidate for federal district court judge in the Southern District of New York.

Essential values

Schofield described the lawsuit against O'Donnell as her "most memorable and most fun case," according to The College Magazine, a publication of Indiana University.

The publisher of Rosie Magazine brought a $100 million lawsuit against O'Donnell he abruptly pulling out of their business partnership. The case was thrown out, and Schofield was quoted by a newspaper as saying: "The judge's comments that this was an ill-conceived case was very gratifying to us. Some newer wanted to get into this. They picked the fight and Rosie feels vindicated."

After the trial, Schofield was interviewed on several TV programs, including "The Today Show." On "Story Minutes II," Jim Gardner interviewed her on corporate scandal, mandatory sentencing and sending orders.

Schofield told The College Magazine that her mother, a pharmacist, "stressed achievement, independence and self-sufficiency as essential values."

"My mother came to the United States because of her infant about the country that had starved her during World War II, and remained hers, I believe, because of the stigma and shame she would have suffered had she returned to the Philippines as a divorced woman," Schofield said.

Sharing her thoughts on diversity, she said it's important for people who are involved in the justice system—lawyers, litigants and judges—"to see lawyers of every type leading the profession."

"The message is that our legal system is open and accessible to all, whether they come as advocates or litigants. Because the world we live in is diverse, and becoming increasingly so. We can learn from each other," she said. "Even unique perspectives brings something valuable to the table."

IN THE KNOW

IN THE UNITED STATES, the district court is where most federal cases are initially tried and decided.

There are 94 district courts, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the territories of Guam, the US Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Except in the case of the three territorial courts, the judge, who presides over the district court, is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Nominees to the position may be recommended by senators or members of the House of Representatives belonging to the political party of the President.

The Senate Judiciary Committee conducts confirmation hearings before a judge is finally approved for appointment.

While the Constitution does not set specific requirements, those who nominate and examine the nominations have developed informal criteria over time.

There are currently 677 district court judgeships in the United States.

SOURCE: ABOUT.COM

AYALA MALLS IN SUBIC

Ayala Land recently launched Ayala Malls' Harbor Point at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Present during the opening ceremony were (from left) Fortuna Holdings vice president Leonardo Dayao, Ayala Land Inc. president Tony Aquino, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Bobby Garcia, Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr., and Ayala Land Inc. executive vice president and group head Bobby Dy. The three-story, 6.5-hectare development is designed to complement Subic's lure for the outdoors. Harbor Point offers a wealth of retail choices, featuring a mix of popular local and foreign brands and boutique homegrown favorites. Anchored by Pangasi Supermarket, it also caters to the shoppers' basic convenience.

Overseas Pinoys urged to rally vs China on May 11

NEW YORK—Linda Stanke Lewis, national chair of a 10-Spine-American good governance organization, has rallied an 10-Spine in rally in front of China's global embassies and consulates on May 11 to protest China's aggressive encroachments on the Philippines' Scarborough Shoal.

Among the first to respond to the call are Filipino organizations in Hong Kong, Canada and Australia.

China considers Scarborough Shoal, located 124 nautical miles from the Philippines' Zambales province, to be its "inherent territory" even though it lies more than 500 nautical miles from the nearest China port of Hainan.

The territorial dispute over the Scarborough Shoal, "Huangyan Island" to China and "Panatag Shoal" to the Philippines, has escalated in recent months following these developments:

• Chinese navy ships recently confronted the Philippine navy vessel, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, which sought to apprehend Chinese boats illegally fishing in the area. The Chinese fishing boats were found to contain corals, rare fish and live baby sharks, which are considered illegal cargo under Philippine law.

• Chinese navy ships have fired on and harassed unarmed Philippine fishing boats and exploration vessels, forcing them to withdraw.

• Chinese navy ships have dropped steel posts and navigation buoys with Chinese markings in the waters around Scarborough Shoal.

Global Global Times, published by the government's People's Daily, reported on April 23 editorial that China is prepared to engage in a small-scale war if not with the Philippines "China should select the most arrogant provocateur, conduct comprehensive strikes, and exert pressure economically, politically and militarily. If the worst overwhelms China's interests, other countries will find their necks in the water."

To defuse the potential for war, the Philippines' Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario proposed that the two countries bring their territorial dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (Itlos) but this proposal was immediately rejected by China.

1,245 Pinoys in 220 countries

Rachel Rocila, national president of the Us Mission for Good Governance (USMGG), based on the Global Filipino Diaspora Council (GFDC) representing 12 million Filipinos in 220 countries to support the Philippines' sovereign claim to the Scarborough Shoal which has been in Philippine maps since 1741.

'Red tape now red carpet'

From page A1

of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and its investors' Navigation Night at Placid Trade Center in Pasay City, the President called on investors in the special economic zone to expand their businesses here, as the investment climate is in the country has never been better.

"The red tape that has for so long smothered your operations has now been turned into a real carpet," the President said. "Involvement is the hope for the future bedrock that has become the calling card of my administration. No under-the-table deals. No graft, no corruption. Only hard work, service-oriented governance and a level playing field for all who have come to invest."

Disclosing that the Peza on its watch and that of its director general Lilia de Lima has been able to generate P465 billion in investments in less than two years, Mr. Aquino said this spike in investments was "an indication of investors' newfound confidence in the Philippines."

He said the amount of investments was 22 percent of total investments in Peza since its 17 years of existence. He profusely thanked De Lima for such "well done."

"We have restored the idea of public service and accountability to government. Investors have responded with renewed confidence in our country's prospects and, most importantly, our people have begun to believe that a better future awaits them," the President said, adding in jest that "perhaps the only thing that has not been possible for us to change is the weather."

Mr. Aquino urged the Peza to venture to expand their operations in the Philippines, thanking them not only for giving Filipinos jobs but also training them to be skilled workers. For each job the investors generate, he said, so-called five jobs are indirectly created, and for this the government is taking every measure "to ensure that your stay here does indeed realize your expectations."

Mr. Aquino stressed that the Peza has become more than a one-stop shop for investors; it is now also a "concierge shop."

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Ati folk get writ for Boracay land

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO, Aklan—The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has issued a writ of possession for the Ati tribe on Boracay Island over their ancestral land in the world-famous resort.

The writ, which formally installs the Ati as legitimate owners of the property, was signed Wednesday afternoon by the seven-member commission led by its chair Zenaida Brigada Mamba-Pawid, according to Regor Rep. Teddy Baguilat, chair of the House committee on national cultural communities.

"[The writ] legalizes the installation of the tribe on their ancestral land," Baguilat told Inquirer in a telephone interview on Thursday.

Since April 17, the Ati tribe has been occupying parts of a 2.1-hectare property in Barangay Manoc-Manoc covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) issued by the NCIP.

NCIP turned over the CADT on Jan. 21, 2011 to the tribe but issued the writ only yesterday amid other claims being made on the land by other groups and individuals.

The CADT was issued 12 years after the 40 tribe first filed a petition on Feb. 23, 2000 to have legal possession of their ancestral land.

The writ ordered property claimants other than the Ati tribe to stop building structures in the area covered by the CADT, Baguilat said.

But in an earlier interview with Inquirer, Eleonora Bacan, MCIP commissioner for island Group and the Visayas, said the writ can only be enforced 15 days after the parties involved in the claims have received a copy of the order.

Property claimant Basil Bacarro had questioned the legality of the occupation of the property by the Ati tribe citing a petition for injunction he filed and which is pending at the Kalibo Regional Trial Court.

But the Ati tribe said they had occupied the land covered by the CADT because the claimants had erected structures and subjected parts of the area to quarrying.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo earlier said the Ati would not be removed from the area they occupied as long as no other structures are erected on the land.

Baguilat, who brought a copy of the order to the tribe in Boracay on Thursday, said the government should have the political will to implement the order through its various agencies.

"This has taken a long time to implement and for the writ to come out," he said.

He said the delay in the CADT approval and the turnover of the property to the Boracay Ati reflected the miserable lot of indigenous communities in the country.

"This case drew a lot of attention but many IP communities remain marginalized and do not even have a CADT for their ancestral lands," Baguilat said.

MEMBERS of Ati tribe build houses around their property in Boracay
KEITH KHAZZIMUEL B. CHAVEZ

San Roque dam water level low, prompts conservation

DAGUPAN CITY—The San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC) has started conserving water at the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan, to continue generating power for the Luzon grid.

Tom Weber, SRPC vice president for corporate social responsibility, said the dam's water elevation as of 6 a.m. yesterday was 236.33 meters above sea level (masl). The dam has a normal high water level of 280 masl. This can reach 290 masl for its flood control component.

"This is relatively low because we are 43 meters below the rule curve. We have started conserving," Weber said in a text message sent to the Inquirer.

But Weber said the diminishing water level in the reservoir should not cause alarm because dam officials have measures in place to manage water use.

"Since power, we have limited generation, which is expected during the dry months," he said.

Weber said Napocor has directed SRPC to generate power at peak hours, which is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

He said the lowest dam water level recorded was in 2007, a dry year, when water elevation went down to 233.43 masl. "Worst level will start rising as soon as we get rains from typhoons," Weber said.

In Baguio City, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said the operators of dams in Benguet and Isabela on Thursday said the intense summer heat has not affected the volume of water in the Ambuklao and Binga dams, both in Benguet, and Magat Dam in Isabela.

OCD records showed that the dams operated this month with little changes in the reservoirs' water levels.

Michael Flordilo, vice president for corporate services of SN Aboitiz Power Corp., said: "In fact, the water elevations of our dams in Benguet and Isabela are high this summer."

This may be due to sporadic rainfall in the last few days, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Abner Villanueva, DENR Cordillera spokesperson, said he went with a team last week in inspecting farms in Bogao and Benguet and confirmed that attention rains have kept the rivers healthy despite the heat.

Nobelo, Aklan-based farmers have received water levels in rivers and creeks receding due to the seasonal heat, an official of Magat Dam said water at its reservoir was down to normal level as of Thursday.

Ramonito Simsim, Magat Dam's assistant manager, confirmed, said water level at Magat was 193.18 masl at 10 a.m. yesterday, still above its normal level of 189 masl. *Gabriel Cardisman, Florent Calivoso and Filamer Magat Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Former head of La Salle, also ex-chair of CHEd, dies

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The former head of then De La Salle University System and chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) on Wednesday died after nearly a 10-year battle with colon cancer.

Bro. Rolando Dizon, 64, and a La Salle brother, was with family and friends when he died past 7 p.m. inside his room at the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"We thank everybody who have been praying with us for Brother Rolly," said former Bishop Rep. Monico Puentevella.

Dizon, who was CHEd chair from 2003 to 2004, was first diagnosed with colon cancer in 2001 and underwent surgery in Houston, Texas, said Puentevella, Dizon's brother-in-law.

Last month, Puentevella said his brother-in-law underwent further surgery to try to fight the cancer.

He added that Dizon had been declared brain dead since Tuesday night. His family and friends were with him when he died, Puentevella said.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra expressed his condolences to the family of Dizon, who, he said, "died as a good and faithful Christian Brother true to his sacred vows and commitments in life."

"May he now intercede for us before the throne of our Heavenly Father. As I offer Mass for his blessed soul, I also pray that his bereaved family that the Good Lord will console them in their hour of bereavement. May his soul rest in peace," the bishop said.

Dizon, a native of Bacolod City, was a member of the Constitutive Commission on Charter Change in 2005 and president of De La Salle University-Manila and the De La Salle University System (1998-2003).

He was cofounder of the Binhuraan Para Sa Pro Dizon. He also served as professor of the University of St. La Salle, Negros Occidental Private Schools Sports, Cultural and Educational Association in Bacolod and the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute, Puentevella said.

REST HOUSE Wood cabins point a picture of serenity at the CamSur Watersports Complex in Pili town, which has become Camarines Sur's top tourist attraction and has been credited with putting the province on top of the list of tourist destinations in the Philippines. RAFFY LERMA

No wage hike for workers in Southern Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Workers in Southern Mindanao hoping to receive a wage increase in time for Labor Day are in for a disappointment.

No wage increase looms in the region though workers are to receive a P30 additional cost of living allowance (COLA) that was part of the P125 COLA increase that the region's wage board approved in December last year.

Joffrey Suraco, regional labor director, said the release of the remaining COLA would effectively increase wages in the nonagriculture sector to P300 per day from the present P261.

Those working in the agriculture sector will get P281 from the previous P251 and those in the retail sector employing not more than 10 workers would receive minimum daily pay of P270 by May 1, he said.

Suraco said despite the rise in cost of commodities, the labor department could not increase wages in the provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and cities in Southern Mindanao because it is bound by a law that prohibits a new wage increase within a year after the last increase in wages.

Only empowering conditions, where definition is not clear, could prompt a new wage increase within a year of the last wage increase.

Suraco said supervising regional offices could come into play if the increase in oil prices showed an signs of easing.

Suraco said the labor department would have no way to monitor all establishments for compliance with the additional P30 COLA.

Not many workers are complaining, though, he said.

The labor department, he said, is also trying to find alternative sources of income for workers. *Jody Quiros and Ryan Mellejor, Inquirer Mindanao*

Slain judge's family pleads for deterrent to killings

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY…The family of slain Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Acho is asking President Aquino to help speed up the arrest of the perpetrators to serve as a deterrent to the continued killings of judges.

"We're calling on the President and the secretary of interior to help us resolve the case," said Ted Brimeier, brother-in-law of the victim.

"I am sure if this case is resolved right away this would discourage other criminals from executing judges because they will know they cannot hide, they will be caught," he added.

Police spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in a text message to reporters that President Aquino had ordered Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to investigate Acho' murder.

He added Robredo has formed a task force and initial reports indicated that the motive was work-related.

Acho, of RTC Branch 60 in Binalbagan City, was driving home to Ilog town when a gunman on board a tricycle fired at him thrice on the national highway in Barangay Mambid past 8 p.m. on April 24.

Supt. Gilbert Malagar, Binalbagan police chief and members of the police Task Force Acho, described the ambush as "well-planned."

He said police are in possession of eyewitness accounts of a man and a woman who were seen in the vicinity of Acho' courtroom before the judge was killed on April 24 and are considered suspects.

The suspects were in the courtroom the entire day until the judge left and headed home, said Malagar.

Brimeier said the judge's family planned to put up a reward for information that could solve the murder of Acho and other judges.

Chief Justice Renato Corona condemned the killing of Acho, said Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez.

According to Marquez, Corona urged the law enforcers to work on the case with speed and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Chief Justice also instructed Marquez to extend all the help that the Supreme Court could give to the family.

Chief Supt. Elpidio Quaral, regional police director of Western Visayas, ordered provincial and city police directors to identify judges and court personnel with threats to their lives to police could provide them security.

Quaral said Judge Acho' killing alarmed the judicial community in Western Visayas and had cast doubts on the capability of police to protect members of the judiciary.

John Hay firm cries sabotage of operations

ONCE A MONUMENT
A base is all that's left of a monument in the late senator Benigno Aquino Jr., father of President Aquino, that used to stand near the entrance of Hacienda Luisita until its transfer three years ago. (INQUIRER.net/MARIANNE LUCDA)

SUBIC BAY CITY—What's the point of demanding payments from a developer when government has started the process of disrupting its sources of revenue?

This was the assertion of Alberto Pilapil, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevcor), which is locked in a debt feud with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Pilapil said the press statements and newspaper advertisements released recently by BCDA had "caused inconvenience and annoyance to guests among customers, buyers and end users."

BCDA had sued Jaime and Gerardo Ongpin (JGO) executives for fraud in March at the Department of Justice, claiming that one of the clubhouses of log homes it turned over to the government is defective on page/had been permanently sold to another buyer. Docket on page is a procedure that allows a homebuilder to give back assets as payment for debt.

> What developer would not want to operate? If we can't get permits, we cannot develop. If we cannot develop, we cannot generate revenues..."

BCDA put out advertisements last week to ask CJHDevcor's clients to inform the government of any anomalies relating to their lease contracts covering properties in Camp John Hay.

But Armed Services Committee, BCDA president, said on Wednesday: "We are not attacking them (CJHDevcor). We are just sharing facts."

At a news conference yesterday, Pilapil said the BCDA press releases and advertisements had "caused" market, alarming some of CJHDevcor's clients.

He said the log home was indeed offered to a buyer who granted half of the property's P40-million lease price as a deposit in 1999.

But the buyer, whom he did not name, did not pursue the transaction and canceled the deal in 2001 so the log home was transferred legally and unencumbered to BCDA, said Pilapil.

The dispute on pages took place after BCDA and CJHDevcor forged a third restructured lease agreement or the forbearing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of 2008.

CJHDevcor rescinded the MOA and asked the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center on Jan. 9 to settle the dispute owing to BCDA's alleged breaches.

Pilapil said CJHDevcor had P715 billion in guaranteed revenues between 2007 and 2011. Reckoning from a 6-month report issued last week, he said the firm should have earned P521 billion from development permits it would have realized early but is not been delayed by changing government administration will their outrules, as well as the global economic of 2007 and 2008.

Instead, CJHDevcor earned P480 million from 2007 to 2011, he said.

Pilapil said CJHDevcor spent P2.5 billion to build a tourism center inside the former Subic naval base and recreation center.

In a statement, CJHDevcor said the firm paid P1.44 billion in rent "despite the delay in the issuance of building and occupancy permits which ought to have supplied CJHDevcor with the likelihood to pay the very minimum income."

"The claim of that CJHDevcor does not want to pay rent doesn't make sense. What developer would not want to operate? If we can't get permits, we cannot develop. If we cannot develop, we cannot generate revenues. If we can't generate the revenues, how can we have the means to pay the rentals?" the statement said, quoting Pilapil. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Council OKs San Pablo's 2nd loan bid

By Mariae Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE CITY council of San Pablo has approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Vicente Amante to negotiate a P749-million loan with the Land Bank of the Philippines to fund a number of city projects.

This was the city government's second loan bid after the Court of Appeals, in October last year, issued a one-year injunction against San Pablo's initial bid to borrow P900 million from the Philippine National Bank.

The P749-million loan will be used for the same government projects proposed under the declined P900-million loan, which includes the construction of a multipurpose convention center, a tourism center, a food and transport terminal and for the conversion of a city college into a university.

Civil society groups in the city have opposed the projects, which they said did not undergo feasibility studies and questioned the city's capacity to pay the loans.

Last year, the Bureau of Local Government Finance, under the Department of Finance, also issued a certification saying the city government is capable of borrowing and paying back up to P500 million.

Councilor Angela Adriano, the sole opponent of the loan bid during the council's session on Tuesday, said the resolution was approved "questioned the city government's "timing" in entering into a loan transaction, as it was just months before the start of an election ban on government projects.

"I am not against the projects but the timing of negotiating a loan," Adriano said in a phone interview on Thursday.

He said in 2007, also an election year, the city government borrowed P1.05 million it used to construct a hospital.

Adriano also questioned how the city government has been using its funds, pointing out that San Pablo incurred a P266-million deficit in its 2010 budget "because funds were not properly managed."

Councilor Edgardo Adajar, the chair of the city council's committee on budget and author of the resolution for bank loan bids, said several loan-funded projects in the past have benefited San Pablo residents.

"The city has kept a good credit standing, otherwise the banks would not offer to lend us money," Adajar said.

Adajar dismissed Adriano's criticisms as "politicking," but declined to elaborate.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ QUEZON

Train kills boy

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy was killed when a passing train hit him in Gumaca, Quezon, on Wednesday. According to police yesterday,

PO2 Jaison Zurbano identified the victim as Jervic Ernest, a resident of Barangay Villa Poblacion, Gumaca.

Zurbano said a villager found the boy's body lying on the railway track in Villa Pasha past 6 a.m. on Wednesday.

Quoting the boy's relatives, Zurbano said Ernest was last seen sleeping on the balcony of their house four meters from the railway track.

Zurbano said it wasn't clear how Ernest was hit by the Manila-bound train but he surmised that the boy could have stepped out of the house just as the train was passing and went too near the track.

Last week, a teen was also killed when he was hit by a passing train in Pagbilao, Quezon. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ DAVAO DEL SUR

Militiaman killed

A MILITIAMAN was killed while another was wounded in a clash with New People's Army (NPA) rebels who stormed a militia outpost in Barangay Managilan in Malapatan, Davao del Sur, on Wednesday, police said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Robert Caraos, Malapatan police chief, identified the slain militiaman as Leonardo Caingat. The wounded militiaman was identified as Jomlo Ulas.

Caraos said prior to the attack, residents had reported the presence of at least 60 NPA rebels under Commander Jacinto Ahiman.

He said before sunset on Wednesday, an undetermined number of rebels stood a cargo truck near the militia outpost.

Caraos said militiamen, led by Sgt. Vidjan Monday of the 27th Infantry Battalion, stood their ground.

Edwin G. Dong, Inquirer Mindanao

■ BATANGAS

Farmer dead in attack

A FARMER was killed and his wife was wounded when unidentified gunmen shot them while they were traveling on a motorcycle in Balayan, Batangas, on Tuesday, police said yesterday.

SPO3 Conner De Guzman, chief investigator of the Balayan police, said Fernando Rodriguez, 51, was dead on the spot due to multiple bullet wounds while his wife Yolanda, 46, suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen.

The couple was traversing a village where they watched a softball game when they were attacked by the gunmen who were on board an offee motorcycle.

Marvin Didal Lendio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Village watchman slain

THE HEAD of watchmen in a village in Baleguian City was gunned down on Tuesday by still unidentified men.

Police yesterday said Elmo Dimasalan, 38, was sitting on his parked motorcycle in Barangay Sta. Rita Kanluran when he was attacked.

Supt. Nicolas Torre III, Batangas City police chief, said Dimasalumlan was shot with a .38 cal. pistol and an Armalite rifle. Dimasalan died on a ward in a hospital near Barangay Sta. Rita.

Marvin Didal Lendio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ DAVAO DEL NORTE

Cop shot dead by dad's lired

A POLICEMAN was killed after he was shot by the brother of a local politician inside an entertainment center in Panabo City, Davao del Norte, early yesterday, police said.

SPO2 Rolando Martinez died of multiple gunshot wounds following the 1 a.m. shooting inside the Ultra Bowl Entertainment Center in San Francisco village, according to Senior Insp. Gretchin Cinco, Southern Mindanao police regional spokesperson.

Cinco said the suspect, Roque Dupdi, was arrested by the Panabo City police in a Davao City hospital where he sought treatment for a gunshot wound that he suffered at the height of a fracas in the entertainment center that led to Dupdi shooting Martinez.

In a text message, Cinco said the blood shed happened as Roque Dupdi, brother of Panabo Councilor Alan Dupdi, had an altercation with another customer at the establishment.

Roque Dupdi drew a handgun at the height of the altercation and fired, prompting Martinez, who was in the establishment, to draw his weapon.

Martinez was taken to a hospital in Panabo where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Cinco said police seized a .45 cal. pistol and bullets from Roque Dupdi.

Dupdi is now detained at the Panabo police detention cell while awaiting charges.

Fernan L. Cruz, Inquirer Mindanao

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Pascua stays perfect with fifth victory

PGH Master Kenllie Pascua bested Jason Francis Moore of Mike in the fifth round yesterday for his fifth straight win in the National Age Group and Children Juniors Chess Championships at the Tamaraw Sands Garden in Tanauan City. The pride of Mongolian, Pangaminan, scored a full point ahead of defending champion Windjer Joseph Sampaga, who won over Hans Robert Sollo, and Jason Rommel Jr., who was held to a draw by Rhea Angela Mallorca. Reygaine Ivan's division

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

SPORTS

Texters, Llamados break 1-1 impasse tonight

By Mhaong B. Castillo

TALK 'N Text and B-Meg brush Ibiti 1-1 tie in their PBA Commissioner's Cup title series tonight with both squads conceding that a momentary lapse in concentration could spell the difference between victory and defeat.

The defending champion Tropang Texters pounced on second lapses by the Llamados Wednesday night to square the best-of-seven series. Talk 'N Text gave B-Meg the headstart by winning 22 free throws and hanging on to the opener.

Game 2 is set at 6:45 p.m. at Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City, with the Llamados expected to come up with some adjustments in hopes of countering the Texters' solid finish in Game 2.

Still, the game will all boil down to execution, especially in the crunch.

B-Meg, benighted several opportunities on Wednesday to tote a five-point lead with 1:08 to go.

Coach Tim Cone tried very hard to be diplomatic about the whole thing, not blaming his supposed players for the errors and not taking them to task more so.

"We missed shot [after] shot by Asmin [Hugh] Dimaculangan, Jay Washington, Jeff Chan, Marc Pingris, Ronjay Buenafe, Gabby Espinas, Ryan Reyes, Rafi Reavis, Ronald Tubid

PDBF going through with ICCC races

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BORACAY—Still trying to find a win-win solution at the last minute, the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation is pushing ahead with the first Cobra PDBF International Club Crew Challenge even if the races are held at the far end of this paradise island scarcely today.

PDBF president Marcia Cruicchini said some 20 among the top clubs in the country are joining the races which will help determine the country's bets to the World Club Crew Championships in Korea later in the year.

She said they have agreed to hold the races in Station 3 as they vowed not continued with another disgruntled competition aimed on the races there in by Sunday.

The Boracay Island Paddlers Association had sought the help of Malay, Aklan, Mayor John Yap to stop the Cobra ICCC event. Yap denied PDBF a permit to hold the races though his office had initially agreed and accepted payments. But Cruicchini said the mayor only informed them of the new development just a week before the races when payments including clubs have started to arrive.

Australia arrived from days ago and Cruicchini said they are also expecting the arrival of clubs from Hong Kong and the United States.

The Cobra PDBF paddlers captured five gold medals in the 1,000m, 500m and 200m divisions of the Phuket Championships in Thailand last March.

International Dragon Boat Federation president Mike Tinkham is also expected to grace the event as chief official.

Bulls, Durant near season milestones

Top seed for Chicago, scoring title for Thunder ace

CHICAGO Bulls star and reigning MVP Derrick Rose attempts a shot over Indiana Pacers forward David West. AP

EASTERN Conference top seeds Chicago inched closer to securing homecourt advantage throughout the NBA playoffs with a 93-87 win over Indiana on Wednesday.

A win over Cleveland in their regular season finale on Thursday, or one more loss from San Antonio, would give the Bulls top spot overall.

Kyle Korver scored a career-high 23 points off the bench and Derrick Rose had 21 and seven assists in just 27 minutes.

The reigning league MVP has missed 26 games this season but coach Tom Thibodeau said his All-Star guard is improving.

"He said this morning he's feelings for better, and that's after two days of practice (on)," Thibodeau said. "That's a good sign."

Lance Stephenson scored 22 points in his first career start for Indiana, which ousted Danny Granger and Leandro Barbosa with the No. 3 playoff spot in the Eastern Conference locked up.

Orlando beat Charlotte, 102-95, to clinch the sixth seed in the East but their playoff chances look bleak with Dwight Howard on injured.

New York, fighting with Philadelphia for seventh spot, beat the Los Angeles Clippers, 99-95, while the Nets beat Milwaukee 99-82. The Knicks currently hold seventh spot and have the tiebreaker over the Nets.

In the Western Conference, Denver beat Minnesota City, 106-101, and are one win away from securing the sixth seed.

Oklahoma's Kevin Durant scored 32 points and became a career-best for the NBA scoring race over Kobe Bryant, who now needs 28 points in his last game to take the title.

In Phoenix, the San Antonio Spurs stayed in contention for the NBA best record with one game to play by topping the Suns, 118-106.

Tony Stills scored 27 points for the Spurs who were despite routing Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, taking them standing tonight victory.

The result of the game was overshadowed by the fact it could have been Steve Nash's last in a Suns uniform. The 38-year-old point guard received rousing cheers. He is a free agent after this season.

OTHER RESULTS: New 88, Jazz 81; Wizards 92, Leaders 85

Some NSAs cool to Russian training

By Jane Manaoro

SOME national sports associations are reluctant to bring their athletes to Russia and train there for a long period of time.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia revealed this yesterday even as he encouraged NSAs not to waste the opportunity opened by the sports-funding agency's deal with the sports ministry of Russia allowing Filipino athletes to hone their skills in one of the world's top sporting countries.

Garcia, who announced the agreement with Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko during the Philippine Olympic Committee meeting on Wednesday, said the responsibility of exploiting and cashing in on the sports pact rests solely with the NSAs.

"It will depend on the desire of the NSAs. The MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Russia is ready to be implemented and they could start their athletes there anytime," said Garcia.

While refusing to name the reluctant NSAs, observers said judo, weightlifting, gymnastics, shooting, boxing and wrestling should benefit from the tie-up since Russia has been a consistent Olympic medal-earner in these disciplines.

The MOU covers the training of athletes, knowledge transfer for coaches, exchange of ideas and programs on sports medicine and science and use of Russia's aforementioned sports facilities.

"The PSC is ready to support them. We're doing everything to provide the best for our athletes. Let's take advantage of the MOU," said Garcia.

Dragonboat needs fair adjudicator

IT IS SPORT of dragonboat racing is as the news again.

CLEAN LIVING

Manuel R. Diaz

After a litany of a few months, the sport is back, this time with a lot of the world as two contending groups wage their own version of competition even in the same weekend (April 26 to 28) at the same venue on Roxas Blvd.

The International Club Crew Challenge, organizers of last year's World Championships in Tampa Bay, Florida, where the Filipino team won their gold medals and the 6th Boracay International Dragonboat Festival will be hosting the club events on the island.

Still, Marcia Cruicchini, president of the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation said they are going ahead with the competition.

Cruicchini's group is not recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee and does not enjoy financial assistance from the Philippine Sports Commission, the government agency that makes funding sports events as well as the training and participation of athletes in overseas competitions.

"The PDBF won't throw its flexibility as a club and race as the official national event," explained Jeanne Go, secretary general of the POC-recognized Philippine Canoe-Kayak Federation (PCKF), the controlling body for dragonboat racing in the country.

It is frankly because of this reason that Malay (Aklan) Mayor John Yap refused to issue a permit for the PDBF to stage the International Club Crew Challenge in Boracay.

Yap reportedly told a letter to PDBF president Cruicchini, stating the conflict of interest.

"Neither dragonboat regatta, sanctioned by the Philippine Sports Commission, which is similar to your proposed regatta, has (been) planned and coordinated on the same dates you proposed," Yap supposedly said.

The PDBF had already paid a fee of P40,000 to hold the weekend races. The venue will be the basis for the selection of members of the national team to the World Championships in Dragonboat Racing this coming.

In a letter, Go said: "Wow, the PDBF publishes did not receive financial assistance from the POC and PSC but the official Philippine national team paddlers continue to receive their stipends from the government. As for the PDBF paddlers, they were handcuffed by companies owned by businessmen close to her."

Whatever, since the PDBF paddlers refused to join the PCKF, the POC could not sanction the trip to Florida or extend any financial support in recognition of the association's feat already been withheld for a month-and-a-half months before the engagement."

In conclusion, Go said: "Handing awards duly actually only that crowds cannot have not been disbursed and an array of required maintenance had been made in the best of the argument."

From where we sit, all this "unnecessary wrestling" will disappear if athletes and bona fide sports officials are given the opportunity to talk and sort out their differences.

Bayern ousts last of Spanish giants

SCHWEINSTEIGER: Winning goal. Reuters

MADRID—Five Barcelona, then rival Madrid, Bayern Munich sent Madrid out on penalties on Wednesday to reach a Champions League final that would be held in its own stadium and ensure neither of the Spanish giants will get a chance to play for the famous trophy.

Madrid's demise came after Chelsea had stunned Barcelona at the Camp Nou. And last as Lionel Messi missed a penalty for the defending champions there, as Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo had his spot-kick saved in a tense shootout that sent Bayern through to face Chelsea at in Allianz Arena on May 19.

Bayern will become the first team to play for the trophy on home soil.

"Today we proved we are a great team," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said. "When I think about the fact that we once play a final in our own stadium, this is something to look forward to."

Ronaldo looked to have put the home side on its way to the final with two early goals, but Aitor Karanka's 29th-minute penalty levelled the score on the night at 3-3.

In the shootout, goalkeeper Manuel Neuer saved from Ronaldo and Kaka to put Bayern on course after Real scored its opening two kicks, before Sergio Canales denied Toni Kroos and Philipp Lahm to drag Madrid back into it.

But Sergio Ramos failed to put penalty high over the bar for Madrid, leaving Bastian Schweinsteiger to rain it for the victors. the German international shooting straight down the middle to spark the Bayern celebrations.

Schweinsteiger stepped his duel off and went screaming toward the Bayern fans. Some of Madrid's players were also crying as they walked off with their heads hanging after coming so close to reaching their first final in 10 years. AP

Filoil: Falcons, Tamaraws square off

UAAP squads Far Eastern U and Adamson gauge each other's strengths, even as Letran seeks its second straight victory today in the Filoil Flying V Preseason Hanes Cup at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Tamaraws will be playing without guard Terrence Romeo and forward Clarence Fiesnela, who were both slapped with one-game suspensions after their scuffle with Pirates' Beaniee Pascual in the 72-58 victory last Sunday.

The Falcons offer a stern test for the Tamaraws with a team built around big man Rodney Brondial and Jeydon Cruz, who were instrumental in the team until we have to accustom their play with the physicality in the games," said FEU coach Bert Flores in Filipino.

The Tamaraws will be playing without guard Terrence Romeo and forward Clarence Fiesnela, who were both slapped with one-game suspensions after their scuffle with Pirates' Beaniee Pascual in the 72-58 victory last Sunday.

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	FEU	
1:30 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson		
3:15 p.m.—La Salle vs UPHSL		

Hat trick fuels Pasargad upset of Meralco

By Cedrik F. Tapas

CEBUITES said salty as on attacking third, Pasargad hammered out the biggest upset of the United Football League season, stunning Loyola Meralco, 4-3, Wednesday night at the University of Makati field.

A hat trick from Iranian striker Hayden Mehrdegard lifted the new-

	Pasargad	
4:15 p.m.—Pasargad vs Meralco		

ly promoted side in only its third victory of the season for sixth spot to the 10-team competition.

Picked up by Pasargad during last month's transfer window, Mehrdegard did a drilled home the game-winner on takeout from nine after Loyola fought back from 1-3 down at half-time to tie the match in the 74th minute.

Their second hat of the season spoiled the Sparks' bid of reclaiming top spot ahead of Global, which is still two points clear with 27 points with seven matches remaining for both squads.

Mohamed Ubadi also made a resounding debut for the Pasargad, scoring the opening goal with a well-struck impede kick 11 minutes into the match that saw two more goals from the penalty spot.

SPORTSWATCH

Big Pasay derby gets going

A CHAMPIONSHIP battle of the undefeated will be at stake in the 11th Philippine Big Team 6-A-Side Cup by which fires off today with more than 10 fights at Pasay City Cockpit.

Among the top fight cockers and breeders coming aside to the derby-opening meeting are Jaime Cojuangco, 2010 Ader Bong Pinca and Ting Concepcion's Joey and Rubby dela Cruz, Jon Cuidet, Gerry Ramos, Rodolfo Pineda, Patrick Antonio, Atty. Peter Dojillo, Pol Ledesma, Eric Chua, Sen. Ki Pimentel, Del Fa. of Dadiz, Pedro Marcelo, Alcalde Ali Olivet, Rebel Rocha and Lil Candelaria.

Up next on PCC is the semifinal round of the 1st Sangguniang National Cock Derby on Monday. The 105-fight Pinoy Elite Cock Super Derby starts on May 2 with 2010 action.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Artist Award, the highest national recognition given to Filipinos who have made significant contributions to the development of Philippine arts, was created through Presidential Proclamation No. 1001 which was signed in Manila on April 27, 1972. Administered by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Cultural Center of the Philippines, it is conferred by the Philippine president. Pianist Fernando Amorsolo was the first to be declared a National Artist. **Gelacio Guillermo, Inquirer Research**

It's still 'cárcel'

No diplomatic immunity for Panamanian in rape case

By DJ Yap

IT TURNS out the Panamanian man accused of raping a 19-year-old girl in Makati City on Monday does not enjoy diplomatic immunity after all and that he will likely spend time in cárcel (jail).

The police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) yesterday said it had pressed rape charges against 35-year-old Erick Rolando Shicke—who holds a diplomatic passport—and would request his transfer to the Makati police station where he would be detained.

Also on Thursday, the complainant who identified herself as "Sue" sent a statement to the Inquirer, saying: "I want the world to know that I'm not stupid and that I was drugged, coerced and forced into a situation of my own dislike and that I want to bring what happened to me to justice."

"I'm a good person with a good day job and my family and alone to support. This is not what happens to good persons and I am in great outrage (sic) and to (sic) my family," she said in a text message.

Earlier, the Panamanian ambassador to Manila on Shicke's behalf and sought his release, insisting that he was protected by diplomatic immunity.

Technical officer

But "apparently the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) found out that he is not covered by diplomatic immunity," said CIDG Women and Children Protection Division head Supt. Emma Cabalona.

The DFA told the CIDG that Shicke was a technical officer of the Panama Maritime Authority and, while he worked for the embassy and held a diplomatic passport, he did not enjoy immunity.

The incident reportedly occurred at around 1:15 p.m. on April 23 when Shicke invited the girl to his place after both attending for a few days earlier. She told investigators the suspect made her smell a "medicine-like substance," which rendered her weak by unconscious, and then raped her.

She reported the crime to the CIDG on April 24 (last 25, as reported earlier) and agents caught up with the suspect at a McDonald's in Makati.

'Swift reporting'

In her text message, Sue enumerated that "the most vital part of my case was my swift reporting of the crime."

"After the incident," she said, "I went straight to my (city's) government's house to inform her of what happened to me.

"We went straight to Makati Med to assess my condition and the medico-legal there advised us to go to Camp Crame to report the crime. We arrived at the CIDG at around 2 a.m. where I was processed medically and my statement taken.

"We finished the procedures by 9 a.m. and the police led by Director Insp. Napoleon Coca were with us to arrest the guy."

Cabalona said Shicke was currently under CIDG custody, but was not being held with other inmates as part of protocol involving foreign suspects.

She said the suspect refused to say anything to reveal details about the incident.

He was assigned a lawyer from the Public Attorney's Office but he declined to submit a counter-affidavit in response to the alleged victim's allegations, Cabalona said.

"This means the prosecutor will decide on whether the case has probable cause based only on the medical report and the girl's complaint," she said.

She added that investigators were in constant contact with the DFA and Panama Embassy officials, who as of yesterday were still seeking custody of the suspect.

Naia can't be the worst with her around

MANY Jennifer Enrique, 32, a postmess at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, turns over a plastic bag of cash to different car owners which she found at the Terminal 1 employees' parking area on Thursday afternoon. "It never crossed my mind to keep it," said the Bulacan, Pandacaan City, resident. "That is not what honesty is all about." **Tina C. Santos**

Korean lured compatriots to PH for sex, charged ₱75K per 'escort'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) will deport a South Korean national who allegedly headed a prostitution ring in Manila that catered to the needs of visiting executives from their countries.

Immigration chief Ricardo David Jr. said yesterday.

David said Park Jun Yeun, 44, was arrested on April 18 at his rented apartment on Dolores Street, Makati City by members of the BI's Fugitive Search Unit (FSU).

"He should be deported for taking advantage of Filipino women whom he exploited and lured to have sex with Korean men," David said in a statement.

Park was arrested based on a summary deportation order issued by the bureau's board of commissioners against him for being an undesirable alien.

The immigration chief expressed confidence the commissioner to order the arrest of an alien Steven Michael Lim, by members of the BI's Fugitive Search Unit (FSU).

Lawyer Ma. Antonette Mangubat-ong, acting bureau intelligence chief, said the Cheongju district court in South Korea last year issued an arrest warrant for Park after he was charged with violating local anti-prostitution and trafficking and kidnapping laws.

South Korean authorities requested him of entering seven of South Korean men to travel to Manila between March 2007 and March 2008 to have sex with Filipino women through his "sexual service" business.

Park allegedly charged each Korean man a fee of P75,000 to avail himself of an "escort."

Mangubat-ong said Park managed to obtain a permanent visa from the bureau in 2010 but this was canceled after it was learned that he was a wanted man in his country.

"A permanent visa does not confer on a foreigner the absolute right to stay in the Philippines. It is only a privilege that can be withdrawn if the foreigner's presence here is considered to be inimical to the national interest," Mangubat-ong said.

Parasites await summer bathers in Pasig River

By Philip Tubeza

IN METRO Manila mired in the summer heat yesterday, the Department of Health (DOH) warned city residents against swimming in the Pasig River.

DOH spokesperson Eric Tayag said the river remained polluted and those who insist to swim could come down with various diseases, from diarrhea to encephalitis.

"We urge them not to swim there," Tayag, also head of the DOH's epidemiology center, said in an interview. "They can get sick. They can get exposed to dirty water," he said.

"They can get encephalitis from parasites that enter through ear openings, nose, mouth," Tayag added.

He said other diseases that swimmers could get include diarrhea, cholera, typhoid fever, Hepatitis B, respiratory diseases, dehydration, and allergies.

He urged city residents not to mind go to public swimming pools, and suggested that barangays could organize trips to resorts so that cheap affordable entrance fee.

"They should go there. Let us not allow children to jump into dirty waters. Parental duties are to swim in those waters," Tayag said.

Temperatures in Metro Manila reached 36.2 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

SOON-TO-BE-HOMELESS

Two children—one barely visible in the dark—peep through a hole in a gate as they await the demolition of a slum community in Quezon City on Thursday. ALVIN KUA

Pastor, cop slain in QC

A PASTOR and a policeman were killed in separate shootings in Quezon City police said.

The slain pastor is Orlando Geronimo, 53, was shot by two gunmen on Wednesday night while in the company of his carnap companion was found at a store in Barangay Commonwealth.

Also a newspaper dealer was dying in Rodriguez, Rizal province, the victim was shot in Quezon City to collect payments from clients.

In another incident, SPO1 Jose Ruel Adriano, 52, died in an ambush in Barangay Payong Tuwa at around 8 a.m. on Thursday.

Adriano, of the QC Police District station 12, was shot just after getting off a tricycle by a lone attacker who covered his face with a towel. **Nancy C. Carvajal**

Another P'que slum colony braces for demolition

By Matthew B. Malasa

ARMED with plastic bags filled with human waste, residents of Tacuatsa community in Barangay Sheridan, Parañaque City were already up as 6 a.m. yesterday, prepared to defend their homes from being torn down.

The day unfolded tense, however, without the demolition team making an appearance.

The 1,000 families living in the compound have been living for a standoff with authorities since Tuesday, after they received a court order for the demolition of their houses.

According to the order from the Parañaque Municipal Trial Court Branch 79, the demolition was supposed to push through yesterday.

The Tacuatsa lot is part one of four pieces of land covered by the company which is run by the Tiongson family of Parañaque.

Thugs and the other security guards are stationed at the only entrance to the property—a small iron gate which leads to ruins and rows of shanties.

Anyone in the compound is strictly monitored, and a court order required to present a gate pass upon entry.

Inside the compound, Raoul Asuncion, along with other residents, said that they have been marching out for the demolition team.

"Even if no one came to demolish our homes today, we (will remain) alert and vigilant in case they come in the next days," he added.

"We have lived peacefully here for years but we will resist any attempt to forcibly evict us from our homes," Asuncion said.

He also criticized their plea for Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr to intervene in the matter. According to the residents, the Tacuatsa lot is a government-owned property by virtue of an ordinance issued in 2005.

Aside from the compound is security room-like, with a metal detector

British economy slips back into recession

LONDON—Britain has fallen into its first double-dip recession since the 1970s, according to official figures released Wednesday, a development that raised more questions about whether government belt-tightening in Europe has gone too far.

The report of an unexpected 0.3 percent decline in economic output during the first quarter of 2012 presented no victory in Britain, and came on the same day that Martin Dwight, the president of the European Central Bank, shifted his rhetoric on the debt crisis to put more emphasis on growth.

Dwight called for a "growth compact" and a reexamination of where the euro is headed.

"We need to actively step up our reflection about the longer-term vision for Europe as we have done in the past at other defining moments in the history of our union," Dwight told members of the European Parliament in Brussels.

Yet, amid growing popular unrest, Dwight rejected calls for more deficit spending. The way to restore growth is to make economies more efficient, he said.

"We have to persevere," he added.

Britain is now in its second recession in three years. The last time the country experienced a double-dip recession was when Margaret Thatcher was elected leader of the opposition Conservative Party in 1975.

In a packed British Parliament, Prime Minister David Cameron refused to disavow his austerity drive against critics like Edward S. Miliband, head of the opposition Labor Party, who called the economic numbers "catastrophic."

The raucous scene was the latest manifestation of growing popular frustration with the strict fiscal diet that has been prescribed by the ECB and German leaders in response to the euro zone's sovereign debt crisis. While Britain is not a member of the euro zone, its economic fortunes are closely linked with those of the currency's users.

The downturn was on view in French elections last week and played a role in the collapse of the Dutch government on Monday. Greece, Spain and Italy have been the scene of mass demonstrations for months, but the turmoil now seems to be spreading to countries that were seen as being at the heart of the crisis.

Britain joined Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain in recession.

Except for Germany, most European countries do not have the financial leverage to prop up their economies with public works projects or other government spending, economists say. Leaders are groping for ways to encourage growth with the limited means at their disposal.

Dwight acknowledged Wednesday that such changes were difficult for the citizens affected.

Economic reforms "change profoundly the societies in which we live," he said. "This is a source of pain."

He urged national leaders to take steps to promote long-term growth even when it is politically difficult. Some leaders have aimed massive infrastructure projects, when instead they should be reducing government operating expenses, Dwight said, without causing any job loss.

Dwight's plea for beleaguered Europeans to stay the course came as the central bank released a survey of banks that showed a sharp decline in demand for credit by borrowers, which analysts said was further evidence that the euro zone is in recession.

In Britain, some economists had predicted a small increase in first-quarter gross domestic product after recent surveys had indicated that the economy was recovering, although very slowly. Cameron's government had insisted in the recovery as a sign that the austerity measures it implemented were working.

"It's too early to call it a reversal of government policy," said Aand Zangara, an economist at Schroders Inc. he added, "These latest results do highlight that the economy will not withstand any further withdrawals [cuts]."

The British gross domestic product numbers caused knee-jerk demand among some economists, including Andrew Goodwin of Ernst & Young's economic forecasting unit, the Item Daily.

"This reaction to these figures is one of disbelief," Goodwin said. "I would be very surprised if these figures were not revised upwards."

Even if the figures are later revised, they could have a negative effect on consumer sentiment and corporate spending, said Howard Archer, an economist at IHS Global Insight. The report could "hit consumer and business hard and make sustainable growth harder to achieve."

Output in the British construction sector fell 3 percent in the first quarter while output from production industries fell 0.4 percent, the government statistics office said Wednesday. Manufacturing shrank 0.1 percent and the services sector grew 0.1 percent.

In Parliament, Cameron conceded that "these are very, very tough economic figures" and that British men in a "very tough situation for their family" are getting poorer.

Cameron's government, a coalition of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats, has been losing ground to Labor in recent opinion polls as voters have become disillusioned with the economic outlook and the austerity plan.

But Cameron said the government would stick to its plan to eliminate most of the budget deficit by 2017.

"More debt and more spending is what got us into this problem," Cameron said. "It can't be the solution of the problem."

Dwight took a similar line, saying countries with a record of deficit spending have not seen benefits. On the contrary, their economies have "flatlined," he said.

"I can think you can increase demand by increasing deficits," he said, without naming any countries. "Then how come we don't have higher demand?"

As Dwight spoke, the ECB released its quarterly survey of bank lending, which affirmed probably the best data yet on the effect of the inexpensive, three-year loans that the central bank issued to commercial banks in recent months. New York Times News Service

A PHOTOSTOP: dressed up as Rupert Murdoch, manipulates a string puppet depicting British Prime Minister David Cameron, at

British government's ties to Murdochs scrutinized

LONDON—Prime Minister David Cameron of Britain and a senior member of his Cabinet faced a growing scandal Wednesday over exposure of intimate links between Rupert Murdoch's business interests and the government presented by Murdoch and his son James this week as evidence in a judicial inquiry.

The Murdochs' appearances at the Leveson inquiry—named after its chairman, Lord Justice Brian Leveson—were expected to focus on long-running accusations that their newspapers pursued scoops by illegally intercepting voice mail messages, hacking computers and paying public officials. Instead the hours of testimony and hundreds of pages of evidence have turned the focus more toward a network of warm, personal connections between Murdoch's media empire and successive British governments.

Just a few miles from where Murdoch testified before Britain's High Court on Wednesday, repeatedly denying any influence over the country's politicians, Cameron and his culture secretary, Jeremy Hunt, faced a hostile and noisy bank of rival lawmakers in Parliament as they sought to address the issue of a cache of e-mails that Murdoch's company, News International, provided to the inquiry in response to a legal order.

The e-mails seemed to show close collaboration between one of the company's lobbyists and Hunt's office, which Cameron had designated to pass judgment on the company's $12 bid. Hunt left in order over the BSkyB satellite television network.

In aide to Hunt seemed in the e-mails, Adam Smith, became the latest in a line of public officials damaged by links to Murdoch. Smith resigned early Wednesday saying in a statement that his contacts with the lobbyist, Frederic Michel, were too far. Hunt, the subject of speculation that he, too, would resign, released a statement expressing confidence that his own appearance at the inquiry would prove his innocence.

But in Parliament, lawmakers from the opposition Labor Party were not satisfied.

"The reality is," said one, Harriet Harman, "that he was not judging this bid, he was backing it, as he should resign."

Another Labor lawmaker, Dennis Skinner, played on the perception that the Conservative party of Cameron and Hunt is upper class.

"The relevant secretary's advice has now lost his job," Skinner said. "Does that not prove the theory that when problems at the top of the tree, they push the servants?"

Hunt, looking beleaguered at times amid jeers and catcalls by lawmakers, said that the contacts between his office and News Corp. "did not influence my decision in any way at all." There was no "hush-hushed" of communications, he said, and the process was conducted "with scrupulous fairness throughout." New York Times News Service

KBP Pop Music Festival
Rekindling Pride in Filipino Music
Tonight, stars will be born
In 1975, the KBP spurred the streetsong to original Filipino compositions by requiring its radio stations to play at least one original Filipino song every hour, later increasing it to three per hour. In 1978, under the auspices of KBP the Metro Manila Pop Music Festival was born, launching new areas in the forerunners of Filipino music and awakening the Filipinos' pride in his own music.
Tonight, the KBP celebrates its 39th Anniversary, new stars will be born as 11 songs vie for the Grand Prize in the Grand Finals of the New KBP Pop Music Festival, a songwriting contest launched in 2010 to rekindle pride in Filipino music.
The Grand Finalists and their composers:
1. Hanggang by Agatha Hamilton – Winner, Pop Category
2. Ako Ito, Ako Rin by Michael Ros – Winner, Folk Category
3. Pinakamahal by Yeshael Tyler by Marian Mendoza – Winner, Novelty Category
4. Pumiin, by Mary Gian Ajera – Winner, Rock Category
5. Inendelen ang Puso Ko by Edwin Marcellana – Winner, Country Category
6. What I Am to You by Andee Cuizon – Winner, R&B Category
7. Dasalan by Aaron Ace Alberto – Winner, Gospel/Inspirational Category
8. Lead the Way by Kat Lopez, Cedric Roque, and James Palma – Winner, Hip-Hop Category
9. Ikaw, Lamb and Ivanne by Agatha Hamilton – Winner, Dance Category
10. Magnolia by Mike de Lara – Winner, Jazz Category
11. Give the Children a Chance by Levi Romero – Winner, Children's Category
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Pakistan PM found guilty of contempt

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Supreme Court convicted Prime Minister (PM) Yousaf Raza Gilani of contempt in an apparently symbolic gesture Thursday but left open the possibility that he could be removed from office later.

Culminating months of standoffs and skirmishes between the country's highest court and the government, the court sentenced Gilani to detention but only until the court adjourned a few minutes later. It was the most famous sentence possible.

While the verdict was seen as largely symbolic, Gilani could still face problems because he has been convicted, a result that could mean the prime minister could face removal from office in the months to come.

The case has divided Pakistan's brittle political system, driving a wedge between the government and the judiciary as the country faces pressing economic and security threats, but both sides have adopted entrenched positions.

The case focused on a letter the Supreme Court ordered Gilani to write to Swiss authorities to reopen a dormant corruption investigation into the finances of President Asif Ali Zardari. Gilani refused to comply, arguing that Zardari is immune from prosecution.

Analysts had said a guilty verdict could carry Pakistan into new legal territory with potentially stark implications for the Zardari government. Having survived speculation about a military coup in January, the government now hopes to complete its five-year term a year from now, when elections are scheduled.

Rooting out corruption is an old problem in Pakistan, where bribery, kickbacks and nepotism are endemic among politicians, generals and even cricketers, for the means to possess them have become heavily politicized. In politics and the military, corruption is seen as a way of either furthering one's own ends or hurting a rival's. Virtually every political leader—and many military commanders—have faced similar accusations.

The Supreme Court aimed to show that it has the will and power to change that. Wednesday evening soldiers were posted at checkpoints in Islamabad in anticipation of a day of high political theater, with television stations expected to broadcast coverage.

But the clash has one strange aspect: The "Swiss letter," as it is known, at the heart of the affair, could prove to be stunningly

GILANI at the Supreme Court in Islamabad on April 26 AFP/FILE

less. In interviews by phone from Geneva, Swiss lawyers and a senior magistrate who had been involved in the cases said it would be virtually impossible to review the cases against Zardari at this point.

One obstacle, they said, was his immunity as head of state; another is Switzerland's 15-year statute of limitations, which expires this year. A third is the suspension of the Swiss authorities.

"Switzerland is not running to give you ram play catch," said Daniel Zappelli, a former state prosecutor who drew up charges against Zardari in the 1990s. "You can't say one day you will go catch the man, and then some day that you won't. We spent basically 10 years working with the parties in Pakistan to review everything, and our mother's for us but to do all that work again."

Zappelli resigned as Geneva prosecutor on March 31; a spokesperson for his successor, Olivier Jornot, would not comment.

The Swiss silverware raises a question: Why are Pakistan's judges and leaders willing to go ten to one over a potentially meaningless gesture?

The conflict raises partly from the appointment of the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, which often challenges the authority of a government it paints as incompetent and corrupt.

Critics say the court sometimes goes too far and may be driven by personal motives. Chaudhry is a bitter rival of Zardari, who restored his reinstatement as chief justice in 2009. Swiss analysts believe that by prosecuting the prime minister, the court has overreached.

"The Supreme Court, like the military, thought they could score this government's successor," said Cyril Almeida, a senior at Dawn, a major English-language newspaper. "Now the government has rushed ahead."

New York Times News Service

Pakistan tests missile days after India launch

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan successfully launched an upgraded ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead Wednesday, days after its neighbor and archenemy India conducted its own missile test, the Pakistani military said.

The Hatf IV Shaheen-1A missile was fired into the sea, the military said in a written statement.

It was described as an intermediate-range missile having a longer range than its predecessor, the Shaheen-1, which is believed to fly up to 750 kilometers (465 miles).

"The improved version of Shaheen-1A will further consolidate and strengthen Pakistan's deterrence abilities," said Lt. Gen. Khalid Mehmood Arif, who witnessed the launch and is responsible for the country's nuclear program.

India's medium-range ballistic missiles have a range of 3,000 to 5,000 kilometers (1,865 to 3,110 miles), according to the website GlobalSecurity.org.

If the Shaheen-1A is indeed an intermediate-range missile, it would represent a quantum leap from the previous version. Pakistan's longest-range missile before Wednesday's launch was believed to be the Shaheen-3, with a range of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles). That is far enough to hit targets anywhere in India.

India announced last Thursday that it had successfully test-launched a new canister-capable, long-range missile, the Agni-V, which has a range of 3,000 kilometers (1,800 miles).

The UN State Department urged restraint.

"The Pakistanis have said it wasn't a direct response to the Indian test," spokesperson Victoria Nuland said. "But what's most important is that they do seem to have taken steps to inform the Indians, and not, as you know, are quite keen on those two countries continuing to work together and improve their dialogue."

Pakistan and India have fought three major wars since they achieved independence from the British empire in 1947. Relations have warmed somewhat over the last year. AP

France suggests military action in defiant Syria

BEIRUT—France raised the prospect of military intervention in Syria on Wednesday saying the United Nations (UN) should consider harsher measures if an international peace plan that has been shaken by violence ultimately collapses.

The statement reflects mounting international frustration with daily attacks that have kept a cease-fire between troops loyal to President Al-Assad and armed rebels seeking to oust him from ruling hold.

Activists said government troops killed at least 20 civilians Wednesday, including 12 killed in shelling in the central city of Homs.

Rebels attacked checkpoints, killing at least four security personnel.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said France had discussed convoking Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which can be enforced militarily, with other world powers. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last week the United Nations should move toward such a step in order to pressure countries like Russia and China to withdraw their financial assistance and an arms embargo. She didn't mention military action. The US has for more than a year opposed the further militarization of the situation.

Any such move, however, would likely be blocked by Russia and China, which have twice used their vetoes as permanent Council members to prevent Syria from condemnation and remain opposed to military interventions. Western powers, too, don't appear interested in sending forces to another Middle East nation in turmoil.

Instead, all parties have backed a peace plan brokered by envoy Kofi Annan that calls for a cease-fire to allow for dialogue between the regime and the opposition on a political solution to the 13-month civil conflict which has killed more than 9,000 people.

That plan, however, has been troubled from the start. Syria has failed to enact key parts of the plan, like withdrawing its forces from cities, and its troops have attacked opposition areas, killing scores of civilians since the truce was to begin on April 12. Rebel fighters, too, have attacked military checkpoints and convoys.

A GIRL takes part in a protest against Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad in Kafranbel, near Idlib, April 25, 2012. The words on the girl's palms read: "Bassam the president." REUTERS

In Paris on Wednesday, Juppe said the plan was "severely compromised" but must continue.

"We think this mediation should be given a chance," he said after a meeting with Syrian dissidents. AP

N. Korea's new missiles are fakes, analysts say

SEOUL—A half dozen common new North Korean missiles showcased at a military parade were cheap fakes, analysts say, casting more doubt on the country's claims of military prowess after its atomic rocket launch failure.

The weapons displayed April 15 appear to be a mishmash of Soviet-built and rebuilt North Korean missiles, and would be of questionable use if used effectively together. Undulating casings on the missiles suggest the metal is too thin to withstand flight. Each missile was slightly different, from the others, even though all were supposedly the same model. They also were fit for launchers they were carried on.

"There is no doubt that these missiles were mock-ups," Markus Schiller and Robert Schmucker, of Germany's Schmucker Technologie, wrote in a paper posted recently on the 38North.org website. Schmucker did work over the listed those companies. "It remains unknown if they were designed this way to confuse foreign analysts, or if the designers simply did some sloppy work."

The missiles, called KN-08s, were hoisted on eight-wheeled mobile launch vehicles North Korea has ever unveiled. Pyongyang gave them special prominence by presenting them at the end of the parade, which capped weeks of celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the country's founding father, Kim Il Sung.

The unveiling created an international stir. The missiles appeared to be new, and designed for long-range attacks. AP

Britain reopens Madeleine McCann case

AGE PROGRESSION computer-generated image of missing child, Madeleine McCann

LONDON—Investigators with Britain's largest police force said on Wednesday that they believed that Madeleine McCann, a British toddler who vanished while on vacation with her parents in Portugal, could still be alive. Madeleine's story mesmerized across the globe, and as the years have passed most have given up hope of ever finding her.

But a week before the anniversary of her disappearance, the Metropolitan Police released a statement saying its investigators had uncovered what they believed to be "genuinely new material," as well as nearly 200 new eyewitnesses for further inquiries. Investigators said that they "now believe that there is a possibility Madeleine is still alive," and have called for the investigation by the Portuguese police to be reopened after a hiatus of almost four years.

Along with the statement, the Metropolitan Police, commonly known as the Met or Scotland Yard, released an age-progression image showing what would have been Madeleine's 9th birthday on May 12. The haunting image of a wide-eyed 9-year-old, released worldwide in the weeks after her disappearance on May 3, 2007, has been replaced by that of a 9-year-old with her blond hair swept to a side part, created in collaboration with her family.

While the initial investigation by the Portuguese authorities was roundly criticized, the British inquiry has been aided by the fact that, for the first time since Madeleine disappeared from her bedroom in the Algarve resort town of Praia da Luz, investigators have been able to review materials generated by those independent investigations in one location.

The detective leading the review said that having access to the Portuguese investigation, inquiries by British law enforcement agencies and the work of private investigators hired by the McCann family presents the team with "best opportunity" of finally solving the mystery of what happened in the seaside resort of Praia da Luz.

Officers have so far identified 195 new items for investigation within the historic material, as well as having developed the new material.

New York Times News Service

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Editor Raul G. Manuel • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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- **Multinational firms** seen bidding for oil, gas areas /B2-1

APC to put up 4 Mindanao plants worth P35B

But exec warns that power supply crunch still critical

By Arcy R. Rocas

ABOITIZ POWER Corp. is investing P35 billion in four new power generation facilities that can add another 354 megawatts (MW) of power to the Mindanao grid by 2015.

The move is expected to ease the critical power supply crunch on the island, APC president and CEO Erramon I. Aboitiz said in a briefing yesterday.

The additional capacity, which is expected to fill Mindanao's large supply deficit, will primarily come from the 300-MW clean coal facility of the company's subsidiary, Therma South Inc., Aboitiz explained.

The remaining 54 MW will come from the 14-MW Hedcor, 12-MW Sarangani and 28-MW Hedcor Bukidnon hydropower projects, which will be undertaken by another wholly owned subsidiary, Hedcor Inc.

"Our long-term investments in both power generation and distribution in Mindanao are a testament to our commitment to be part of the economic development of the region. We have been in Mindanao since the 1990s and want to continue to be part of its future growth," APC said.

APC, B6

PH to receive largest assistance fund from S. Korea

By Nica T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES and South Korea are set to sign an agreement that will cover an P11.23-billion irrigation project during the 45th Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Manila.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), the Golo project will be the largest to be supported by the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) worldwide.

In a statement, the Neda said that concerned Philippine and Korean agencies have wrapped up meetings on the second phase of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project in Iloilo and are ready to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on May 4.

Of the project's total approved cost of P11.23 billion, some P8.93 billion will be financed through an official development assistance (ODA) loan from EDCF.

Implementing agencies of the project are the Department of Agriculture and National Irrigation Administration.

"The Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Phase II is one of the first batch of projects, and biggest of the three irrigation projects, approved by the Neda Board this year. It is a ground-breaking venture in terms of scale and importance to facilitating the increase in food produc-

PH, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 26, 2012
42.530

STOCK MARKET
April 26, 2012
14.13

Stocks continue to breach new levels

STOCKS yesterday continued to trek to new heights as investors weighed in talk that the US Federal Reserve would keep interest rates low.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index extended its winning streak for the fourth day, adding 14.13 points, or 0.27 percent, to finish at a record high at 5,218.87.

A new intraday record was also set at 5,247.14.

The PSEi on for has marked 17 record closings since the start of the year. In all, the local index has gained by 847.01

STOCKS, B5

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SMIC profit jumps 13%

Banking concerns were biggest contributors in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON Henry Sy-led SM Investments Corp. grew its first quarter net profit by 13 percent to P6.3 billion on the back of robust sales in the back of its banking, retail, shopping mall and real estate businesses.

Among SM's core businesses, banks contributed most to the group's net in the first three months with a share of 30.3 percent. The retail group followed, contributing 28.7 percent. Shopping malls and real estate had shares of 25.3 percent and 11.7 percent, respectively.

SM's consolidated revenue rose by 16 percent to P46.7 billion from year-ago level.

"The encouraging performance of SM in the first quarter of 2012 is due mainly to the strong start of its core businesses, some of which posted better-than-expected results for the period. With the prevailing positive outlook on the domestic economy and the expected resilience of our subsidiaries, we remain optimistic that SM will attain its goal to post record-high targets for the rest of the year," SM president Hans Sy said in a statement.

The retail group, a high-volume but low-margin business, had a first quarter net income of P1.1 billion, up by 20 percent from a year ago. The department store subsegment grew by 18 percent while the supermarket expanded by about 22 percent.

Total sales of the retail group rose by 18 percent to P24.4 billion. Contributing to its performance was the group's continued expansion, particularly through SaveMore.

SM Retail opened eight new stores in the first three months, bringing the total number of stores to 176—42 department stores, 33 supermarkets, 69 SaveMore branches and 32 hypermarkets.

Some of SM's publicly listed units reported their first quarter results as follow:

• Banco de Oro grew net income by 35 percent year-on-year to P3.4 billion and expects to expand full-year profit by 14 percent to P13.2 billion.

• SM Prime Holdings grew its first quarter net income by 15 percent to P2.43 billion and is expanding to sustain this pace of growth for the rest of the year.

• Residential developer SM Development Corp. grew its first quarter net income by 63 percent to P1.16 billion and is looking at a sustainable growth of 15-20 percent in both topline and bottomline growth.

Meralco Q1 core net income up 5%

By Amy R. Borja

MANILA Electric Co. posted a 5-percent increase in its consolidated core net income to P3.4 billion in the first quarter from P3.3 billion a year ago.

In a briefing, Meralco senior vice president and chief finance officer Betty C. Ong-Yap said the increase was fueled by a 10-percent rise in the volumes of electricity sold in the first three months of the year. This was attributed to a "better than expected economic environment, containing rising inflow of remittances from OFWs and revenue inflows of business process outsourcing activities, benign inflation and slightly warmer temperatures."

The increase in sales volume to 7,467 gigawatt-hours was also brought on by the higher number of billed customers, which reached 3.07 million as of end March.

Consolidated revenue grew by 16 percent to P46.8 billion from year-ago level.

"The 10 percent increase in energy sales realized, although not unprecedented, was better than expected. However, the collective efforts of our more than 6,000-strong workforce, consisting largely of field engineers and linemen who have managed to maintain a highly reliable network, should not go unnoticed. Coupled with these are the concerted energy saving initiatives offered to our customers' mindset to practice economy," said Meralco president and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan.

"Meralco no longer passively waits for a customer to apply for a new connection. As we continue to outperform, we are looking further by bringing our expertise to other franchise areas and entering the power generation space. While sales in the coming quarters may be somewhat constrained, especially with the onset of the rainy season, we are currently preparing our facilities to ensure minimal downtime," he added.

According to Pangilinan, Meralco is maintaining its profit guidance of P13. billion for 2012, and energy sales volume increase of 3 percent this year.

Review of executive perks

THERE IS a shareholders' revolt going on in one of the world's biggest banks that may set a trend for public companies.

Last week, the stockholders of Citigroup, an American multinational financial services corporation, voted against the compensation packages that the board of directors proposed for its key officers.

Although Citigroup CEO Vikram Pandit received just $1 in 2010 as compensation, the $15 million salary that the board wanted to give him for services rendered in 2011 was rejected by the stockholders.

They felt his performance record last year was not good enough to justify that pay since the value of the company's shares had remained low, even after another similarly-sized bonds, for the previous years.

Despite the rejection, however, Pandit and the rest of the executives will still receive their salary allocations.

The vote, which was taken pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Act (the law enacted by the US Congress to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial meltdown) is not binding; it is merely advisory.

Under that law, public companies are required to submit to stockholder vote at least every three years the companies' executives' pay packages.

The exercise, although considered to initiate, is aimed at informing the board of the stockholders' sentiments about the salaries and perks that are given to corporate top brass.

Performance

This week, the stockholders of Barclays PLC, a premier British multinational financial services company, will decide at its annual stockholders' meeting on, among others, the compensation package for its CEO and CFO.

Ahead of the meeting, the bank's major stockholders have voiced notice of their strong disagreement with the proposed salaries and other financial benefits for the two officials.

The stockholders think they do not deserve the recommended multimillion dollar compensation because they have not met the performance targets they have set for themselves for the preceding years.

To avoid an embarrassing rebuff at the stockholders' meeting, the two officials have offered to voluntarily forfeit some of their compensation to meet the concerns raised by the complaining stockholders, majority of whom are institutional investors who are grizzled veterans in their craft.

The adverse reaction to executive pay by stockholders of two major financial institutions in the world's most developed economies represents a major shift from the traditional attitude of giving the boards a free hand to determine management's compensation.

Until the near collapse of the US economy in 2008, stockholders of most American and European public companies remained that their boards acted in their best interests whenever they awarded hefty compensation packages to their executives.

Independents

The trust proved to be misplaced.

The string of bankruptcies and takeovers that later ensued showed that, while the companies were financially flaying from hidden liabilities and accounting irregularities, their top brass continued to enjoy extravagant perks and privileges.

So when were the directors, especially the so-called independent directors tasked to act as "kind opposition" within the board, who were supposed to see to it that the company was properly run?

Either they were sleeping on the job or had been co-opted through lavish allowances (courtesy of management) into turning a blind eye to the one most important duty of the directors.

No longer the passive onlookers they used to be, the stockholders, especially institutional investors who have clients' interests to protect, are asserting their right to have a say in management's compensation.

This time, the top bankers are being asked to prove their entitlement to their perks through pre-determined performance targets on either the value of the company's stocks or its bottom line, like financial gain, cost projections, is the name of the game.

There are attendant risks to ignoring stockholder sentiments about executive pay. Disgruntled stockholders can vent their ire if they believe are insensitive to their concerns, or use them for damages for violation of fiduciary responsibilities.

Activists

In our country, executive pay in listed and public companies is not considered appropriate for discussion in stockholders' meeting or, for that matter, in business forums. It is something discussed in the privacy of the board rooms, or, elsewhere. The scale of rewards can dumfound a strictly enforced in corporate offices.

The theory that majority stockholders or the public get to know about this is in the Information Statement (Definitive Schedule) required to submit to the regulatory authority prior to their annual stockholders' meeting.

Even there, the figures given are in the aggregate, that is, only the sum total of the salaries of the top executives, not the individual salaries, are disclosed.

For alleged evasion of security regulations and, even go to court if necessary, to represent the release of accurate information about their executives' pay checks.

If it is "tribute" to our imaginative lawyers and accountants that some of the executives who games thrilled list of wealthiest people in the country are somehow near the SEC's notion of top individual earners.

(For feedback, please write to <cpal-abscbn@gmail.com>; pls.)

Public to own 11.45% of Bloomberry

BLOOMBERRY Resorts Corp., developer of a gaming complex in Bagong City, expects to bring to public hands about 11.45 percent of the company from a secondary public offering (SO) worth P8.35 billion to be completed in early May.

Bloomberry has also granted Global Gaming Philippines Ltd. (GGAM), its management/technical partner in the Solaire Manila project, the option to acquire 9.01 percent of Bloomberry any time before the entire option, which is timed for the first quarter of 2013.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Bloomberry said it was planning to sell up to 1.16 billion shares via the ongoing top-up offering at between P6.55 and P6.20 per share. Assuming an indicative offer price of P7.20 per share, the company said gross proceeds would be about P6.55 billion or about $200 million.

The offer price is expected to be finalized by May 3 through a book-building process following discussions among Bloomberry, its controlling shareholder Prime Metroline Holdings led by businessman Enrique Razon Jr. and arrangers CLSA and UBS. The price will be determined after an institutional roadshow. Bertel Ouanduo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Quotations

LRT 1 deal bid process starts next week

HYUNDAI Asia Resources Inc., the mobility partner of the 45th Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting of Board of Governors, officially turned over to the Department of Finance 59 Hyundai Grand Starex vehicles that will be used to transport delegates to the international conference that will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and the SMX Convention Center from May 2 to 5, 2012. The turnover ceremony was attended by (from left) Hankyung Motors Corp. chair emeritus Richard L. Lee, chair Edward S. Go, president and CEO Ma. Fe Perez-Aguila and Finance Undersecretaries Rosalia de Leon and Gil Beltran.

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BIDDING for the biggest infrastructure project currently in the government's pipeline will start next week, Transportation Secretary Jose Rosario said as he welcomed the private sector's affirmation of support for the Aquino administration's economic roadmap.

Rosario on Thursday said the government welcomed the partnership between conglomerates Ayala Corp. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp., formed to bid for big-ticket infrastructure projects.

The first nod on the most expensive of the state's planned projects is the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line 1 extension to Cavite Province—to cost an estimated P60 billion—that will be put on the auction block next week.

The LRT Cavite project, also known as the South Extension, aims to extend the 20.8-kilometer Roosevelt to Baclaran line by 11 more kilometers to Cavite. The DOTC also wants to add more trains to handle the expected increase in ridership.

Then DOTC said the project would be auctioned off in two phases. The first covers the construction of the overhead viaduct from Baclaran to Cavite, and the train stations located along the new section. The second phase will cover the installation of electromechanical equipment, including train trucks, power supply systems, ticketing machines, and the new train coaches.

The first phase is scheduled for completion by late 2014. Work on the second phase, which covers steel rail—the line is completed, is scheduled for completion by late 2015—just before the end of President Aquino's term. Both phases will cost P60 billion each, with the first likely to be funded as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The second phase will likely be funded through an overseas development assistance or ODA loan, the DOTC said.

Philex posts record Q1 sales

By Roz T. Olchondra

PHILEX Mining Corp. posted a record-high first quarter revenue on strong gold and copper prices in the global market, but profit was pulled down by higher expenses and lower grade and metal recoveries.

Metal sales reached P9.02 billion in the first quarter of 2012, up by 4 percent from P8.664 billion a year ago.

However, lower grade and metal recoveries at the Padcal Mine in Benguet kept core income at about P1.33 billion. Reported net income was 3 percent lower at P1.268 billion from P1.31 billion due to higher cost and expenses.

Revenue from gold grew to P5.177 billion from P3.099 billion while revenue from copper was up to P3.796 billion from P5.651 billion. Average realized metal prices for the period were $1,679 per ounce of gold and $4.26 per pound of copper on 20,153 ounces of gold and 9,985,270 pounds of copper produced.

Tonnage milled in Padcal rose 4 percent to 2.336-million tons of ore ore in the first quarter from 2.267 million tons in 2011. However, copper concentrate produced was 2 percent lower at 78,478 dry metric tons as ore grades were lower at 0.494 grams gold per ton and 0.219 percent copper from 0.613 grams gold per ton

PAGE B5

PSE trading floor, HQ relocation OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board has approved the relocation of its unified trading floor and corporate headquarters to Bonifacio Global City under a revised property deal with AyalaLand Inc.

The agreement with ALI paves the way for the construction of the PSE's future headquarters and unified trading floor in BGC after a nine-year wait.

The PSE disclosed on Thursday that its board had approved the relocation of its offices and trading floor to a unified office in BGC to be developed by ALI and/or its affiliates. The framework is expected to be discussed for final approval by the stockholders of the PSE during their annual meeting on May 3.

"We hope to sign the agreement with Ayala sometime next week. Then, the team will finalize the construction timetable," said PSE chair Ana Dizon.

A spokesperson from ALI confirmed that under the framework, the PSE will get about 6,000 square meters of office space in the new complex within BGC's West Super Block, right in the middle of BGC's central business district, to be developed by ALI.

It was earlier reported that this project would take five years to complete but the PSE is hoping it could be done sooner.

The PSE will have the right to name the building, which is envisioned to be similar to the PSE complex in Ortigas Center.

This office space is in exchange for the 2,000-square-meter parcel of land originally donated to the PSE by SM Investments developers at the site for its future headquarters.

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Doosan Infracore Construction Equipment

InfraMachineries Corp. holds 1st Doosan Classic

Doosan is major sponsor of British Open in July

Major players in the mining and construction industries graced the 1st Doosan Classic, incurred by InfraMachineries Corporation and Doosan Infracore last March 30, 2012, at the East Ridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

Executives from the Doosan headquarters in South Korea and InfraMachineries Corp., led by its founder Bayani Fernando, were also in attendance to personally thank loyal customers for trusting Doosan as a partner in their development projects.

The event also served as a venue to formally announce to the Philippines that Doosan is one of the major sponsors of the British Open in July 2012.

Two lucky participants – Ed Angeles and Vic Ferrer – each won an all-expense paid trip to the British Open to be held in Lytham St. Anne's, England.

On the other hand, Clement Pancho bagged the Doosan Breaker Attachment worth Php 1,000,000.00.

InfraMachineries Corp. is the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of the Doosan Infracore Construction Equipment portfolio that includes worldwide brands such as Doosan, Doosan Mora, Bobcat, and Ingersoll Rand.

Doosan Infracore Company is ranked sixth in the world in quality construction equipment.

The Doosan Group is also into building and operation of nuclear power plants and desalination plants, as well as the manufacturing of marine engines.

InfraMachineries Corp. offers reasonably priced and high-quality Doosan construction equipment to the Philippine market.

Hee Sun Ahn, Managing Director Doosan Infracore, and BF Group founder Bayani Fernando.

Lucky winner Vic Ferrer (3rd from left) wins a trip to the British Open. InfraMac president Richard Fernando (far left) and BF Group founder Bayani Fernando (far right) award the prize.

An all-expense paid trip to the British Open is awarded to lowest gross champion Ed Angeles (2nd from left). Jp Tale C. Fernando, Managing Director of InfraMac and BF Corp. (2nd from left) and Hee Sun Ahn, Managing Director Doosan Infracore (far right).

THUMBS UP FOR DOOSAN. Doosan and InfraMac executives and major players in mining and construction equipment the 1st Doosan Classic at the East Ridge Golf and Country Club.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Unusual billboards translate to huge awareness

Cutting costs a must for SMEs

SIMPLIFYING business operations increase productivity, reduces costs and heightens efficiency.

This allows entrepreneurs to free up and manage their time better, so they can pursue their hobbies and other passions.

Here are some ways to simplify business operations as recommended by the Globe Business group:

1. Monitor your business anytime, anywhere.

Any business that needs to secure its premises—hotels, restaurants, bars or resorts, factories, warehouses, retail outlets, government/law enforcement agencies, financial institutions from banks to lending businesses, investor/mergers or pawnshops, etc., hospitals and clinics, and schools—will reap tremendous benefits from knowing what's going on within the place of operations.

2. Stay connected.

The Internet plays a crucial role in businesses development as it helps companies increase their visibility as well as make their productions and promotion more efficient at lower costs.

3. Access your secured network anywhere. Net-Globe Business products, Virtual Private Network (VPN) Express and the Multi Protocol Label Switch (MPLS) allow business owners or authorized personnel to remotely access business data and connect a company's branches and corporate office.

VPN lets user send company e-mail, upload and download files, check reports and do other business tasks even outside the office. This business solution ensures private, secure communication between two or more multiple locations. It provides real time connectivity and access to a company's secured network. Business owners may access business data and make changes, all in real time like from home or anywhere with Internet access.

VPN Express provides highly secured and efficient networking. It is useful in financing situations, government agencies—practically any business where the head office needs to connect with company sites.

MPLS allows interconnection of systems and applications among business branches with a scalable and reliable network.

It's most useful in franchise food or retail outlets, and any business whose branches need to coordinate with one another to ensure quality service to customers.

A sporting goods chain for example, may network its branches so customers are able to find a particular athletic, exercise or gym product that may be available in some branches but out of stock in others.

4. Manage your phone call expenses. There are a number of available prepaid plans that allow businesses to choose the mobile services that best address their needs.

With the packaged industrial talk 'n text voice/data features, subscribers can save as much as 70 percent per month on their mobile phone bills.

5. Make text messaging easier and cost-efficient. If your business involves high-volume text campaigns, Globe's TxtConnect can help you send SMS blasts to your employees and customers in just one send. This service is web-based so it is easier to send SMS than regular text messaging or phone calls.

6. Secure your business data. Organizing and securing your business' vital data and ICT resources is now possible through data storage services.

Any business that relies on and processes huge amounts of data—especially confidential information—like financial institutions, government agencies, hospitals, schools, law firms, resorts, restaurant chains and the like will surely benefit from this service.

Losing data in this day and age, whether due to a computer virus, deliberate hacking, spying or data theft, or computer failure, is extremely serious. It provides real time connectivity and access to a company's secured network. Business owners may access business data and make changes, all in real time like from home or anywhere with Internet access.

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6

Credit agencies under pressure to raise PH grade

By Michelle V. Ramos

Capital market said to no longer follow watchdogs' ratings

THE GOVERNMENT's long wait for an investment grade may soon be over as credit agencies are seen to be giving in to pressure to align their ratings on the Philippines with the favorable assessment of the international capital market.

According to international financial services firm Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. (ANZ), there is a disconnect between the country's actual credit ratings, as assigned by credit agencies, and the favorable interest rates on Philippine bonds assigned by investors in the international capital market.

In a paper on the Philippine economy, ANZ said issuing firms should no longer ignore the fact that their ratings on the country are not being observed by the international capital market and, therefore, they must raise the country's sovereign grade to the next term.

The Philippines is rated a notch below investment grade by Fitch Ratings, and two notches below investment grade by Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's.

ANZ cited that the interest rates of bonds issued by the Philippine government are as low as those of debt instruments issued by countries with investment grade.

Based on ANZ's estimates, interest rates on Philippine bonds are priced 200 basis points below the rates carried by bonds from countries with the same credit ratings as the Philippines.

"The market has been pricing the Philippines' sovereign risk at investment grade for an extended period of time," the bank said.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima has said that the Philippines' sovereign risk is

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BUSINESS

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Multinational firms seen bidding for oil, gas areas

DOE to open offers for 10 new areas

By Amy R. Remo

FRENCH multinational Total, Eni S.p.A. of Italy, US firm Calibuggy, GDF Suez of France, Shell Philippines Exploration BV (SPEX), Statoil on Energy Ltd., Australian firm Mitra Petroleum Corp. and Malaysia's Mitra Energy Ltd. are just some of the firms expected to take part in the bidding to explore and develop the country's oil and gas resources under the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR) 4.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said yesterday, however, during the membership meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines that only bids for 10 areas will be opened—instead of 12.

Sources said this is because one company had filed a temporary restraining order concerning Areas 13 and 14 in East Palawan that it claims it has exploration rights to.

Meanwhile, Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug said that he expects 11 pre-qualified companies to submit their respective bids for the other 10 areas.

He added that the DOE had assured investors that the government will secure the areas for exploration and development.

In June last year, the Department of Energy launched the PECR 4 for petroleum, during which it offered 15 prospective oil and gas blocks located in Cagayan, Central Luzon, Northwest Palawan, Mindoro-Cuyo, East Palawan, Cotabato and the Sulu Sea.

The opening of the bids for three gas blocks is scheduled for later this year to give prospective investors more time to study the areas.

The PECR 4 was envisioned to help the country meet its daily energy demand and reduce the importation of expensive petroleum products.

According to the DOE, it expects at least $7.5 billion-worth of initial investments to be infused in the local oil and gas sector over the next several years, should all the 15 concessions offered under PECR be awarded to investors.

Forum Energy seeks partners

FORUM Energy PLC is shopping around for potential partners in the exploration and development of the Recto Bank, which is estimated to hold about 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

In a briefing yesterday, Philex Mining Corp. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said there was a need to pursue experienced companies as it would require billions of dollars, expertise and marketing power to be able to bring the Recto Bank into commercial production.

Philex Mining, through its subsidiaries PEC Resources Inc. and Philex Petroleum Corp., holds 44.55 percent of the issued capital of Forum Energy.

Forum Energy meanwhile, holds a 70-percent stake in Service Contract 72, which covers Recto Bank. The remaining 30 percent is held by Mount Oro Resources Energy.

Forum Energy recently announced an increase in the estimated reserves within its contract area to 16 trillion cubic feet from previous estimates of 7.4 trillion.

"Such a huge reserve is enough to supply the country with natural gas for the next 100 years, according to Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras.

Pangilinan, however, admitted that pursuing exploration and development work would be a challenge.

"There's always that possibility [of delay] because of political concerns. Issues are being raised between Philippines and China, and there are other claimants as well so that has to be sorted out. There's a possibility of delay if Chinese gunboats appear on the horizon," Pangilinan said. —Amy R. Remo

BCDA shells out ₱2.68B for gov't housing projects

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-OWNED Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has ramped over a total of ₱2.68 billion worth of land for 20 years for the country's National Shelter Program (NSP), enabling more Filipinos to afford housing.

In a statement, BCDA president and CEO Arnel Paciano D. Casanova explained that the proceeds generated from the sale of former Nichols Manila camps had not only funded the Military Modernization Program, but also provided decent housing.

Of the ₱2.68 billion, ₱1.86 billion was generated through the sale of former Nichols Manila camps, the biggest of which are Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base now known as Bonifacio Global City and Newport City, respectively.

"The ₱1.86 billion has been remitted to the National Treasury," Casanova said.

He stated that since BCDA has assisted the hand to the National Government and Congress, the realization of the maintenance become the responsibility of the Department of Budget and Management pursuant to the approved fiscal program of the government. BHM will then release the funds to the respective government agencies to finance the National Shelter Program.

Meanwhile, the Initiative estimated that 1,000 families will benefit from the project of ₱805.56 million worth of properties once turned over by the BCDA to the National Shelter Program.

These properties are the Philippine Commercial Village, Lapang Kamyunan and the 6K/F Park...all in Taguig City.

The properties, covering a total of 93.27 hectares, were declared socialized housing sites with mixed-use development by virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 70, as amended by EO 483.

Casanova said that the NGAs eligible contributions to the NHP were made possible "through our strong performance in the disposition of state assets entrusted to the BCDA for mixed commercial-residential use."

"The BCDA has been instrumental in forging viable partnerships with private businesses for the development of former military facilities and landmark within Metro Manila into high-end residential and commercial communities, with other Bonifacio Global City and Newport City as the cornerstones," Casanova added.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
FIELD OFFICE XI

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Supply and Delivery of Groceries and Toiletries for Disaster Relief Operations
ITB No. DSWD-FO XI-2012-16

The Department of Social Welfare and Development - Field Office XI (DSWD-FO XI), through the CY 2012 General Appropriations Act intends to apply the sum of Five Million Eight Hundred Five Hundred Five Hundred Pesos (₱5,805,500.00) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to purchase under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Groceries and Toiletries for Disaster Relief Operations. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall not be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The DSWD-FO XI now invites bids for groceries such as sardines, beef loaf, and beans; and non-food items/toiletries such as bath soap, bath soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, bath towel, underwear, and slippers. Delivery of the goods is required within 15 calendar days from the receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within three (3) years prior to the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from PSALM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders beginning on 27 April 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (₱1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall not be tendered personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The PSALM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 04 May 2012 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bantayan Building, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 17 May 2012, 09:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 17 May 2012 at 10:15 AM at the 6th Floor, Bantayan Building, 6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who chooses to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The PSALM reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

CONRAD E. TOLENTINO
Bids and Awards Committee
Project Senior Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
6th Floor Bantayan Building, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel (02) 8924-0000 Fax: (02) 8924-0456
e-mail: mailto:bac@psalm.gov.ph
bac@psalm.gov.ph
PSALM website: www.psalm.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CONRAD E. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

Interdepartmental courtesy: Boon or bane

By Ernesto M. Dondoza

INTERDEPARTMENTAL courtesy in government can be a boon when a Cabinet Secretary requests another Secretary's prerogative or can refuse to do with the request for grace.

This follows the management principle of matching responsibility with accountability.

But we have also seen interdepartmental courtesy become a bane, especially in anti-smuggling wars.

COMMENTARY

This has resulted to more than ₱100 billion a year in lost government revenues, and the loss of jobs in both agriculture and industry.

AFMA 2015

During the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) Conference on Feb. 14 to 15 last year, an important anti-smuggling recommendation was made.

This was for the Department of Agriculture (DA) to get the Armed Forces Aladdin (IFM) from the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which is supervised by the Department of Finance (DOF).

The IFM lists the imported product, consolidated and sorted date from declarations. If DA has the IFM, it can easily identify the products without import permits and ask the BOC to apprehend the smuggled imports.

Unfortunately, the DA anti-smuggling coordinator was not assertive in asking BOC for the IFM.

Response

Lower-level government officials should not use interdepartmental courtesy as an excuse to shirk responsibilities to the public.

For the last year and two months, this has gone on to the extreme detriment of the farmers and fisherfolk.

In response, the entire industry has decided on a nationwide "pork holiday". This is where they will not sell pork for a week unless specific anti-smuggling action is taken.

The poultry sector equally harassed by smuggling, has declared that it will follow suit.

When Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala discovered this problem, he wrote Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima on the issue last March 30, in the Cabinet Secretary level, interdepartmental courtesy is properly implemented. But at lower levels, some unscrupulous BOC elements use this excuse to delay the DA-affected valid requests.

Sadly, some DA officials have accepted this arbitrary position.

Solution

Without the involvement of the private sector, we have seen misplaced interdepartmental courtesy as the reason for government failure in the anti-smuggling campaign; it is not appropriate to bring all the anti-smuggling details to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Finance.

The Agriculture Secretary is concerned with issues such as food security and the self-sufficiency while the Finance Secretary has issues such as fiscal, among the budget with revenue-enhancing measures.

Anti-smuggling advocates have repeatedly failed in communicating the significant impact of smuggling on these issues.

Given our current situation of rampant smuggling, it is important that other high level officials such as undersecretaries, who know how to use interdepartmental courtesy properly be appointed as anti-smuggling head persons at the DA and DOF.

Since industry is likewise severely affected by smuggling, DA should join BA and DOF during the anti-smuggling meetings.

They can then recommend, and more importantly monitor, BOC's anti-smuggling actions. One private sector representative each from agriculture and industry should participate during these meetings.

The happiness of the innocently successful Cabinet Oversight Committee Against Smuggling (COACAS), which was abolished by the previous administration precisely because it was ineffective.

The private sector should not worry about how to fight smuggling than DA and DTI.

They should therefore be given significant participation in the Public and Private Partnership Against Smuggling (PPPAS) effort.

Conclusion

Today interdepartmental courtesy fuels anti-smuggling. Right is a basic function BOC has successfully used this to avoid transparency and accountability. One glaring example is BOC's refusal to give the IFM to DA.

With the recent presidential awareness of PPPAS, group composed of DA, DTI, and two private sector representatives overseeing BOC's work. (The proper use of interdepartmental courtesy will become a boon, rather than a bane, for our people. (The author is chair of Agri-Inbuild)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY)
11th Lagoja Tower, 331 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Ext., Legaspi Village, 1229 City of Makati
Tel. Nos.(02) 811-4777 loc 13, (02) 811-3441 to 45, Facsimile No. (02) 813-3982
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT, PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PRA PROPERTIES

The PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and submit the sale of the following properties on an "as-is, where-is" basis:

1. Properties and minimum bid/offer terms:

Properties / Location	Area (m²)	Mode of Disposition	Predominant Land Use
Reposhale II	CBP-14, Rte City, Pasay City	Sale, preferably cash	Mixed-use development
Property 1	BARCCO Reclamation, Bicutan City	Sale, preferably cash	Industrial / commercial
Property 2			

2. QUALIFIED PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

- Any Filipino citizen of legal age; and
- Any government-owned or controlled corporation, government financial institution or any public corporation which is in full compliance with the requirements contained in the Invitation.

Private corporations are not eligible to bid. However, divisions, affiliates and subsidiaries of private corporations can acquire residential alienable lands of the public domain not to exceed twelve (12) contiguous hectares through public bidding, provided, they are Filipino citizens.

3. SCHEDULE

	Activities	Requirement	Deadline
a.	Submission of Pre-Bid and Bid Documents	April 13 to May 28, 2012 From 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM	April 13 to May 28, 2012 From 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM PRA Cashier's Office, Ground Floor, Legaspi Tower 300 Building, Makati City
			April 29 to 31, 2012 From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Two Second Pavilion Resort Hotel, Resorted City
b.	Non-Refundable Fee	Php 500.00	Php 500.00
c.	Pre-Bid Conference	April 30, 2012 at 2:00 PM PRA Conference Room	May 2, 2012 at 2:00 PM Two Second Pavilion Resort Hotel, Resorted City
d.	Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents and Bid Documents	May 28, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. White Office, Makati City	May 31, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. Two Second Pavilion Resort Hotel, Resorted City
e.	Opening of Bids	May 28, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. PRA Conference Room	May 31, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. Two Second Pavilion Resort Hotel, Resorted City

4. Interested qualified parties may avail and the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents from the Marketing Department at the address stated below upon payment of the corresponding non-refundable fee in cash or Manager's Check/s drawn payable to Philippine Reclamation Authority and authenticated by an office of PRA. If the participant is the highest bidder, the cost of the prospectus is considered as disposition. The LCD should be submitted and authorized as:

MANUEL G. FRANCISCO, JR.
Chairman
PRA Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PRABAC)
Philippine Reclamation Authority
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 300
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

a. The PRABAC shall notify Pre-Bid Conference/s and shall be open only to the interested parties who purchased the bid documents.

b. The required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference should be submitted/deposited in the Bid Box located at the respective venues.

c. The opening of bids, to be conducted by the PRABAC, shall immediately follow at 2:00 P.M. of the same day after the closing/opening of the Bid Box.

5. PRA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularities found therein, to accept such bid/s as may be considered most advantageous to its interest, to declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract in case of:

a. Strong likely evidence of collusion between PRA officials/employees or in the PRABAC and any of the bidders or between or among the bidders themselves or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict or nullify or suppress competition.

b. The bidder is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedure/s; and

c. For any qualitative and reasonable grounds the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government.

Interested parties may obtain further information on the properties for sale at www.pea.gov.ph or may contact Ms. Arlene T. Bautista, Mr. Joseph T. Nolasco of the Marketing Department of Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) at the telephone and/or fax nos.

(Sgd.) MANUEL G. FRANCISCO, JR.
Chairman, PRABAC

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012 BUSINESS B/4O

Sales of smart phones growing fast in SE Asia

By Paolo G. Montecillo

TWO out of three new mobile devices sold in Southeast Asia today are applications-rich, Internet-enabled smart phones, fueling the exponential surge in data services, Singapore-based research firm GfK Asia said.

The Philippines was noted as the fastest growing market, with the value of smart phones sold growing by 402 percent in the first quarter of 2012 over the same period in 2011.

"The smart phone revolution is in full swing," GfK Asia's digital technology associate director Gerard Tee said in a statement on Thursday.

"The developing Southeast Asia where smart phone penetration is still nowhere near saturation levels, we can be sure that the current sales spurt will carry on for at least the next few years," he said.

With much of the populace still not owning a mobile phone, there is no better place for global mobile phone brands to focus their sales and marketing efforts," he said.

GfK Asia's latest report surveyed Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Cambodia, where the smart phone sales grew by an average of 62 percent.

The size of the smart phone market in the Philippines, however, remains small compared to its neighbors.

Smart phone penetration in the country at the end of March was pegged at 20 percent, less than half the penetration rate in Indonesia.

The region's most mature markets were Malaysia and Singapore, where penetration rates were at 80 percent for both countries.

"The largest smart phone market to date region-expectedly is Indonesia which has a smart phone penetration rate of 62 percent and enjoyed sales exceeding $1.4 billion last quarter," Tee said.

In an email to the Inquirer, GfK Asia said smart phone sales in the Philippines were at $265 million in the first quarter of the year.

No users in the region, GfK noted an increasing preference for touch devices like Apple's iPhone and countless other devices powered by Google's Android operating system, showing a shift in preference from the once-popular BlackBerry devices sold by Canada's Research In Motion.

Beware of text messages!

THE PHILIPPINES has been described as the undisputed text capital of the world. Available data indicate that in 2003, a PLDT subscriber sent an average of 160 messages a month. By 2009, a Filipino subscriber sent an average 660 text messages a month, or more than 300 percent more than he did in 2003.

The availability of text messages continues to climb.

The legal question posed to me by some of my friends is whether text messages are admissible as evidence in a court of law.

The Supreme Court answered the question in the affirmative as early as 2001.

In Zaldy Nuez vs. Trinita Cruz-Apao (April 12, 2001), a certain Trinita Cruz-Apao (Trinita) sued Zaldy Nuez (Zaldy) in exchange for a favorable decision of the latter's case with the Court of Appeals (CA).

Trinita, who was an executive assistant in the CA, represented to Zaldy that the money was for a researcher who would draft a favorable decision for Zaldy.

Instead of agreeing to Trinita's machinations, Zaldy sought the help of the Ombudsman of the Oishi Network and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) to the entrapment of Trinita.

Zaldy and Patricia Sotogon of the Ombudsman, who posed as the former's sister-in-law, met with Trinita. During their second meeting, Zaldy and Patricia were accompanied by 5 PAOCTF agents who apprehended Trinita.

In due course, an administrative case for dishonesty and grave misconduct was filed against Trinita. The CA commenced a committee to investigate the case.

Zaldy, together with Patricia, testified in support of his claim. Zaldy also presented several text messages from Trinita, which helped established that the latter solicited P1 million in exchange for early decision in favor of Zaldy.

The ruling

The exchange of text messages between Zaldy and Elvira was duly presented before the committee. Zaldy testified on the text messages. Group of the witnessing Elvira and her counsel assented to the veracity of the text messages between her and Zaldy.

The Supreme Court ruled that the text messages were admissible as evidence against Elvira. The Court stated the Rules on Electronic Evidence (REE) promulgated in 2001. The High Court held that the text messages were duly "proved by the testimony of a person who was a party to the same or who has personal knowledge thereof."

Furthermore, Elvira acknowledged that the text messages originated from her mobile phone and she, together with her counsel, had signed and attested to the veracity of the text messages. The Supreme Court held that the text messages were duly authenticated in accordance with the REE and were, thus, admissible as evidence against Elvira.

POINT OF LAW

PANTALEON LIM

Observation

The Supreme Court was correct in holding the text messages as admissible under the REE. With due respect, however, the Court misdocumented the text messages as "ephemeral communication." In my humble opinion, this characterization must be corrected immediately, lest the error is perpetuated, as shown by the subsequent case of Vidallon-Magtolis vs. Salud (469 SCRA 429 (2005)) which adopted the erroneous characterization.

Rule 1 of the REE defines "[e]lectronic document means any information evidenced by, recorded, stored or archived in, whole or in part, of an electronic data message or electronic document." In my humble opinion, this characterization must be corrected immediately, lest the error is perpetuated, as shown by the subsequent case of Vidallon-Magtolis vs. Salud (469 SCRA 429 (2005)) which adopted the erroneous characterization.

Rule 1 of the REE defines "[e]phemeral electronic communication" as "telephone conversations, text messages . . . and other electronic forms of communication the evidentiary of which is not recorded or retained." Section 1(k).

I was a member of the 6th Committee formed by the Supreme Court to draft the REE. We included the concept of ephemeral electronic communication in the REE in recognition of the fact that a record of text messages and other electronic communications may not be retained. As we all know, these messages may be deleted from time to time by the sender or recipient for a variety of reasons. We sought their evidentiary value for as long as a competent witness can testify on them.

Were there was a record of the text messages in the Cruz-Apao case, they could not be recorded as ephemeral communication under the REE.

If not, what were they then? They were electronic documents. The REE defines an electronic document, among others, as "information . . . by which a fact may be proved and affirmed, which is received, recorded, transmitted, stored, processed, retrieved or produced electronically." Section 1(h), Rule 1).

In fact, Rule 11 of the REE, which governs ephemeral communications, expressly provides that if such communications are "recorded or embodied in an electronic document, then the provisions of Rule 5 shall apply" (Sec. 2). Rule 5, on the other hand, provides for the manner of authenticating an electronic document.

Under the REE, an electronic document (like the text messages in the Cruz-Apao case) whose record was retained can be authenticated "by either evidence showing its integrity and reliability to the satisfaction of the judge." (Section 1, Rule 5)

(The author is the Co-Managing Partner and Head of the Corporate and Special Projects Department of ACCRALAW. He also teaches Insurance Law at Ateneo Law School. He may be contacted at p-lim@accralaw.com.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
[illegible]

IN THE MATTER OF THE:

GLOBE TELECOM, INC.
Registrant

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 19 March 2012, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Globe Telecom, Inc. (the "Company") for the registration of Nine (9) and Seven (7) year Fixed Rate Bonds in the aggregate amount of up to [illegible]

The bonds will be issued in denominations of One Thousand Pesos (P[illegible]) each, or multiples and for multiples of Ten Thousand Pesos (P[illegible]) in excess of the minimum thereof. The Company intends to list the bonds on the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corporation.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the Company:

Name	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] corporate information and other papers [illegible] are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party upon request, at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe. The Articles of Incorporation and the Prospectus contained therein dated March 19, 2012 may also be downloaded at www.globe.com.ph.

ESTELA V. BAUTISTA
Acting Director

ALASKA

ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

[illegible]

For further information, please call the Corporate Secretary's Office at telephone number [illegible].

Very truly yours,

[illegible]
Corporate Secretary

BUSINESS

Scores drawn to multibillion-peso LTO contract bid

By Paolo S. Montecillo

THE LAND Transportation Office (LTO) information technology (IT) supply and operating contract may be one of the most hotly contested projects on the government auction block, a top Cabinet official said yesterday.

More than a hundred companies have drawn their interest in bidding for the multibillion-peso deal to replace controversial Stradcom Corp. as the agency's computer systems provider, Transportation Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said.

"This project is the first step of the road towards IT systems for the country," Roxas said, revealing that the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) was drawing up plans to bid out a similar but separate contract covering the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), which oversees the country's public transport system.

Roxas said more than 100 "participants," each representing a company attended the pre-bid conference for the deal held earlier this week.

"We are doing this so there will be seamless sharing of data between the two agencies. This will eliminate the problem we have today where a car registered with the LTO as a public utility vehicle (PUV) does not have a franchise with the LTFRB," Roxas said.

He said this would also make it impossible for the LTFRB to issue franchises to vehicles not registered with the LTO—a problem that both agencies are struggling with today.

Amid calls for the DOTC to simply renew its existing arrangement with Stradcom Corp., which has been the DOTC supplier for 13 years, Roxas said ending a new contract would eliminate loopholes plaguing the current deal.

"The current contract was made 13 years ago. No one can deny that technology has changed, rates have changed, terms of operations, or the manner of runs on the road and transactions that have to be handled, have changed," he explained.

"Just in those 13 years, loopholes and oversights in the previous contract have cropped up," added Orense, president of the ruling Liberal Party that counts Roxas' father Jesse among its members.

One of the biggest obstacles to the previous contract was a provision that allowed franchisees to retain ownership of computer equipment the LTO used.

"We can't even access our own LTO database without passing through franchisees," Roxas said.

"In order to get the best technology possible at the prices we want, we have to bid this out."

DOTC hopes to squeeze best possible deal from auction

Seasoned banker to head Metrobank; Ty assumes board chair

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANKING giant Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. has named seasoned banker Fabian Dee as its new president. He will take over the post of Arthur Ty, who has been elevated to the post of board chair.

Dee and Ty were elected during a board meeting [on Wednesday immediately after the bank's annual stockholders' meeting.

"This new leadership is poised to seize new opportunities in the dynamic banking landscape. With a more focused strategy to grow and a strong balance sheet, the bank is well positioned to move with the country's renewed growth prospects," Metrobank announced Wednesday night.

Ty had been president of Metrobank since 2000, and was the youngest chief executive among the country's major banks. He led Metrobank's rigorous housecleaning over the past few years and vaulted his term just as the bank had hit a record net profit of P11 billion in 2011. The profit figure was 12 percent higher than that of the previous year.

Dee brings 27 years of banking experience to his new position. He used to manage corporate and middle market portfolios, treasury and consumer banking, among others. Prior to his election, he was senior executive vice president and head of the combined branch banking sector, as well as chair of Metrobank Card Corp.

Bit Buzz reported in January that the appointment of Ty and Dee was part of Lucio Tan Group Ty's preparation for succession, ending the narrative of reappointments to the second generation.

Metrobank insiders believe that the new men at the helm will be very good for Metrobank because Dee is characterized as a "builder," complementing the passive Ty's conservatism.

Meanwhile, Antonio Alarcon Jr., who served as Metrobank president and chair and helped grow the bank for the last 26 years, will transfer his responsibilities to Ty but will remain head of the bank's board of advisers as well as vice chair of the group.

"Throughout Alarcon's career in Metrobank, he was able to tap many opportunities for the bank thereby making him one of the central figures behind its success. His continued stay with the group remains to be a valuable asset for Metrobank given his banking industry knowledge and experience," the Metrobank statement said.

Power Situation Outlook
for Friday, 27 April 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,762	1,778	999
System Peak (MW)	7,716	1,448	1,210
Gross Reserve (MW)	1,046	330	-211

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Name and address of Company/ Employer	Name of foreign national/Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENT

Philippines HEALTH & WELLNESS Travel

A Guide to World-Class Healthcare & Travel Destinations in the Philippines

Supplement Head: Jeng Arcasio
Project Director: Jayce Sozaa-Alonso
Writer: Kaeli Dalle
Account Executive: Meg Lacsam
Layout Artists: Ruben Jerfred D. Cadiz, Dilly Angat

We welcome your articles and comments. Email us at info@inmsmmunications.com

Travelling for health

MAKE IT HAPPEN IN MAKATI

The City of Makati is happy to share with our dear readers the latest developments in our city's healthcare and tourism programs in this special section, "Philippines Health and Wellness Travel" of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in partnership with MM Communications.

As in many other aspects of city administration, Makati is once again leading the way by example when it comes to healthcare and tourism programs and projects...the latest of which are: 1) The Official Makati Travel Map; and 2) The City's robust entry into the process of international accreditation for its hospitals, clinics and wellness facilities.

Ultimately, the beneficiaries of these projects are the residents of our city as well as visitors, businessmen and investors who, together with the city government, are working towards the upkeep and betterment of the way of life that is distinctly Makati's.

Please do read through these pages to learn more about what the City of Makati has to offer and we hope to see you soon in our city.

Welcome and Mabuhay!

JEJOMAR CIPRIANO S. BINAY, JR.
Mayor
Makati

By Joyce Sozaa-Alonso and Kaeli Dalle

WHAT FIRST COMES TO MIND when we think about the City of Makati? For some, it would be the Ayala Center, the modern commercial and retail hub that encloses both the Glorietta and Greenbelt Malls, as well as the Ayala Museum and the beautiful cookie parks in the area.

For others, Makati City embodies the idea of the Makati Medical Center, one of the supervisory hospitals in the country. Others still always remember Makati as synonymous to the stock exchange, and as a central business district where wealth is exuded and grown.

Makati forward, progressive, tourist-friendly and cosmopolitan—the City of Makati is all of that and more. Besides being a green for investment, information and innovation, Makati City is also known as a model city when it comes to providing health and wellness to residents and tourists alike. So it is not surprising that the city has recently come out with the official Makati Health and Wellness Travel Map.

Multi-faceted, progressive, tourist-friendly and cosmopolitan—the City of Makati is all of that and more. Besides being a green for investment, information and innovation, Makati City is also known as a model city when it comes to providing health and wellness to residents and tourists alike. So it is not surprising that the city has recently come out with the Official Makati Health and Wellness Travel Map.

Pioneer, leader in universal healthcare

Makati City is the very first, and still the leading LGU in the entire country when it comes to providing a citywide universal healthcare program for its residents. In addition to that, Makati also has 100 percent membership in PhilHealth as well. When it comes to healthcare for its residents and visitors, no other city is the Philippines comes close.

Makati's programs for health and social services have received many awards from the national government and private organizations. Most notable of these is the award given to the Makati Health Program, known popularly as the "Yellow Cat 4" program. It has been recognized internationally through the Dubai International "Best Practices" Award, the "outstanding contributions towards improving the environment."

Makati's journey towards first world universal health care for its residents began back in 1998, when former Department of Health Secretary Jimmy Galvez-Tan, M.D., was tapped by then Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay to assess the state of Makati's health services and recommend improvements.

Galvez-Tan was very honest about his assessment. "I told the Mayor that while Makati was a centre of business, with the stock exchange being business down and the world-class hotels in the area, a laggard behind healthcare. Ironically, Makati then had a third world health care operation," he said.

The Mayor took Galvez-Tan's assessment

TURN TO PAGE A2-1

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Editor's Pledge

We are happy to announce to the town this City of Makati Medical Center, without a doubt, the most advanced tertiary healthcare system in the country today.

As we welcome its new sister wing, Makati is indeed a model for all other cities in the country. It has proven that various technologies are to holistically possible—world class, goodwill, hard work, and commitment to the part of hospital personnel, the private sector, and city residents.

In the next 20 years, Makati City has established healthcare system for its residents that is comparable to that of Singapore and other developed cities in the Asian region. This is an accomplishment that other cities in the Philippines must strive to meet as a guiding inspiration.

The city's helped elevate it to become the ultimate "health and wellness destination," not only for the Philippines, but to the whole region as well. We can, after all, a business capable growing number of health and wellness related businesses.

Indeed, Makati is ready for medical tourism for the first reasons: taking up first one of the public health system that benefits all of the residents and enhances safety and in other city for healthcare.

Makati is truly made in heaven — for sure, the entire Philippines can!

Jejomar Binay
Mayor, City of Makati

La Breza Tower: Modern luxury and comfort amid tranquil suburbia

THOSE seeking a relaxed suburban lifestyle, combined with luxurious services and comfort will find it in La Breza Tower in Alpha Executive City. This 37-storey one-tower residential condominium property is strategically located in Modern Ignacio Street near EDSA, the main artery of Metro Manila—offering easy access to any point in the metropolis.

La Breza's luxurious amenities offer the peak of exclusivity, combining style and class to bring its residents unrivaled predominance. La Breza Tower is ideal for professionals who wish to enjoy the best of both worlds: a comfortable, relaxing and private lifestyle away from cities but not away from the utmost of work in the city, while offering them the convenience and excitement of an urban, cosmopolitan environment.

As a condotel, La Breza provides a living experience that is superior to that of a condominium unit. Guests and guests enjoy 24/7 personalized service from the friendly and well-trained staff. La Breza condotel also provides privileges of living in a home-owned with the comforts and accommodations of being serviced by the staff of a five star hotel.

Its strategic location in Quezon City gives residents and guests access to Metro Manila's centers of business, leisure, entertainment, sports, shopping, and healthcare in Quezon City, Ortigas, Makati, and Metro Manila. Transportation is very convenient as the EDSA shuttle, neighbor bus stations (MRT), buses and the Metro Subway System (MRT) Galleria are close proximity to one of the country's largest media networks, ABS-CBN and GMA-7.

Best of all, La Breza is located in Alfonso area that still retains the relaxing, quiet and spacious character of suburbia. There is still ample greenery in the area and there is no crowding, in contrast to places like Makati and Ortigas. It is the perfect place to live, without any hassle plans for future projects and concepts.

Amenities include the La Breza amenities activity Filipino and world cuisine; the gym that offers a complete fitness experience with cardio machines, weight machines, and free weights. The gym is adjacent to the open air pool area with a beautiful tables in pool bar outlet, a kiddie pool and a jacuzzi, surrounded by refreshing greenery.

There's also a commercial area with restaurants and boutiques, banquet and function rooms. The residential and residential areas have studio, one bedroom and two bedroom units. Residents and guests enjoy ample parking spaces and 24-hour security.

Studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units are available as preparative residence and investment. They have a choice of locating a basic size (already with flooring) or a fully furnished one (available at some additional cost). Studio units may be converted to one bedroom unit, while every bedroom unit may be expanded to a two bedroomer.

Residential units in La Breza are available for purchase for residence and investment, either to lease to a favorite of foreign guests, celebrities and professionals who wish to enjoy the excellent services, luxury amenities and convenient location. Retail for residents and investors are encouraged to take advantage of the ongoing promo discount: 10 percent discount on the total contract price, with downpayment payable in 18 months. The balance may be paid through bank financing.

The La Breza Tower hotel, which includes units on the third to seventh floors, is now fully operational and accepts bookings for weddings, birthday celebrations and corporate functions.

La Breza Tower hotel and condominium is owned and developed by the Lucio Tan's multi-industry conglomerate, Inc., one of the pioneering and renowned developers in the Philippines architectural design is by WV Consultants and Associates while interiors design is by Sangsang & Designers.

Interested parties may get in touch with Regan Homes Marketing Corp., which is exclusively marketing the condominium following. For more information, you may visit www.labrezatower.ph or call (02) 584-1334 or (02) 817-8678.

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GUIDE TO LIVING, RETIRING AND SETTLING DOWN IN THE PHILIPPINES

Building on the remarkable feat accomplished by the 2008, 2009, and 2010 issues of "Philippines: The Heart of Asia" Travel Guide & Directory in promoting the country for medical and wellness tourism, HIM Communications is publishing for its 2012 edition this handy booklet titled "Guide to Living, Retiring and Settling Down in the Philippines". The travel guide shall serve as a quick reference to the country's premiere medical, wellness and retirement facilities and allied services that are essential to the needs of potential and existing retirees in the Philippines.

To advertise and for other inquiries, contact:

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HTM COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Medicard Colorectal Clinic: At the Forefront of Colorectal Care

Contact: Baby Mendoza 09178484339

Makati City - The Medicard Colorectal Clinic's surgery team sees a variety of procedures to diagnose and repair damages to the colon, rectum, anus, and pelvic floor caused by diseases such as cancer, diverticulitis, inflammatory bowel diseases, and other benign disorders like hemorrhoids, fissures, fistulas, polyps, and sexually-transmitted venereal diseases.

Some of the services are outlined below:

Colonoscopy

Both a diagnostic and therapeutic procedure, a long flexible tube is inserted into the rectum and gradually advanced through the colon. This allows the physician to have an unobstructed view of the entire colon to allow him to examine the lining of the intestines, diagnose colon and rectal problems, perform biopsies and remove noncancerous growths (polyps).

Endorectal Ultrasound

A special ultrasound technique in which a transducer is directly inserted through the anus and into the patient's rectum. The sound waves echoes detect activity the transducer are converted by a computer to an image. It is one of the most useful diagnostic tools for diseases of the anal and rectal regions of the body, especially for cancer staging, abscess and fistula treatment, and sphincter (muscle that provide continence) problems.

Transarterial Hemorrhoidal Deartorialization (THD)

Using a Doppler ultrasound, the blood vessel supplying the hemorrhoid is identified and ligated with stitches. Deprived of its blood supply, the hemorrhoidal then shrinks and shrivels. There is no wound outside and is therefore almost painless.

Stapled Hemorrhoidopexy

Using a specially-designed, single-use stapler instrument, the hemorrhoids are returned to their normal anatomic position. The end result is that the surgical wound is inside, and no wound is visible outside the anus. Scientific studies have proven that this is less painful than traditional surgery. Best recommended for hemorrhoids with prolapse.

Rubber Band Ligation (RBL)

A procedure in which the hemorrhoid is tied off at its base with rubber bands, cutting off the blood flow. The hemorrhoid then shrinks, in about a week, and then falls off.

Medicard Colorectal Clinic is manned by board-certified Fellows of the Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. It always strives to provide comfort, privacy and total quality service to its clientele.

This specialist clinic is located at the 2nd Floor, Medicard Lifestyle Center, 951 Pasay de Roxas Cor. San. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Ave., Makati City, with tel. no. 310-0822, cell phone no. 09266305159. The clinic is open from Mondays to Fridays - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

City of Makati launches Travel Map for Health and Wellness Tourism

THE CITY of Makati launched its official health and wellness travel map that features the city's premier hospitals, clinics, spas, and wellness centers, presenting it to stakeholders in Makati's tourism and healthcare sectors. The Official Map published by HBM Communications provides visitors and residents a handy guide for navigating through the city's central business district, as well as to shopping, leisure and entertainment centers.

Makati Health Council – NABH International partnership

During the launch, Makati Mayor Jun Binay also revealed that the city has ongoing efforts to ensure that Makati's healthcare providers, from hospitals to clinics to spas, receive international accreditation.

"One of the priorities in the City Health Program is international accreditation for our city's healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and eventually, to wellness centers. International accreditation is a proven way for upgrading healthcare facilities and services to conform to global standards, and be at par with the best in the world."

"For this, we are working closely with NABH International, an official accrediting agency under the International Society for Quality in Healthcare in partnership with our Makati Health Council, with the support of NABH International and our stakeholders in the city's healthcare, our goal of international accreditation for our healthcare providers will be achieved," said Mayor Binay.

According to Binay, the international accreditation of Makati's hospitals, clinics and wellness centers is being undertaken through cooperation with Makati Health Council and NABH International. NABH International is an official accreditor of the International Society for Quality in Healthcare. HealthCORE is the Country Representative of NABH International in the Philippines.

"We understand that it is important to provide world-class medical services that are affordable to the local populaces and medical tourists. Setting standards through international accreditation would be good for Makati's healthcare providers to remain competitive and excellent in their practice," said Dr. Gabriel Tan.

NABH mentoring of The Philippines' First Health and Wellness Travel Map and Stakeholders' meeting for City of Makati's Medical Tourism Program are successfully held last April 5 at the Makati City Session Hall. Shown in photo (from upper left) are Lito Amores (head, Makati Tourism Council), Carlos Clemente (president, Tourism Congress), former DOT Sec. Cynthia Carlos (president, AMPAI), Vincho Lapid (president, Makati Tourism Foundation), Agnes Villar (president, Accor Circle Travel), Hon. Mayor Jejomar Erwin C. Binay Jr., Dr. Joel Gutierrez, Dr. Ervin Santos (Cosmeria Medical Makati), Dr. Jaime Sabio-Tan (head, Makati Health Council), Joyce Sison Romero (president, HBM Communications), Dr. Ennie Barrios (Makati Health Department), Mitch Gonzaga (Lifebalance), Jeanlen Sabuenas (Dr. Jean Wellness), Nestor Cueto Tiozon, Dr. Amadeo Tejero Jr. (Bel-Air Dental Care), Mark Fuentes (Makati Medical Center), Dr. Abby Montenegro (president, Medical Philippines), Kate Cruz-Gonzales (Marketing, Medical), Dr. Rex Martin Bencio (Bel-Air Dental Care), Dr. Noel Tecson (Bel-Air Dental Care), Rachel Uy (All Precision Plus), Wilfredo Carlos (All Precision Plus) and Dr. Mariano Alcantara Jr. (All Precision Plus)

Leading the way

According to Lito Amores, head of the Makati City Tourism Office, Makati has the infrastructure to be one of the top tourism destinations in the Philippines.

"I would say that Makati City's tourism and medical travel infrastructure is at par with similar destinations in the region. We have the best hotels. We are the center of business. We have world-class malls. We are an entertainment center and we have parks as well."

"Plus, the City's healthcare system is really advanced. We have tertiary hospitals, world-class specialty clinics that are already treating foreign patients on a regular basis. Really, all we need to do is let the world know the good things that Makati City has to offer. We have them already, so let's tell people about them," said Amores.

Medical travel model city

According to Joyce Sison-Abenoja, president of HBM Communications, Makati City is on its way to fulfilling a vision that, she hopes, the rest of the country will eventually share.

"We had been advocating medical tourism in the Philippines since 2006. Actually our very first efforts to develop the Philippines as a health and wellness destination began in Makati way back then. Through the years, we've learned that there are considerable challenges to realizing that vision for the entire country. Hence, we are overjoyed right now that we are here and we choose to start with Makati City which we hope will serve as a template model for other cities to follow given its infrastructure, security and strong local governance, not to mention its being the country's foremost business district."

"Travelers from overseas who are seeking information about the Philippines healthcare and wellness facilities will find the information they need at the Philippines' The Heart of Asia website. The Makati Travel Map is also available for viewing and for download at the website," she said.

For more information about Makati City and medical tourism in the Philippines, please visit the Philippines' The Heart of Asia website: www.cebuphipinesbeatsdestin.ph

LITO Amores, head of the Makati City Tourism Office

STAY IN LUXURY

The City of Makati is home to the finest deluxe, first class and standard hotel accommodations in the country. These include world-famous hotels like the historic rich hotel Inter Continental, Shangri-La Hotel, Manila Peninsula Hotel, Mandarin Oriental, the Dusit Hotel and the New World Hotel, among others.

GET YOUR TREATMENT

Makati has excellent healthcare facilities such as the Makati Medical Center which is JCI-accredited and various specialty clinics, including those focusing on aesthetic, cosmetic and dental procedures. These clinics are already providing treatments and services to medical tourists from various parts of the world.

SHOP FOR GREAT BUYS

The Greenbelt, Glorietta, Landmark and SM malls provide a first class shopping experience to tourists, offering everything from stalls selling knick-knacks at flea-market prices, to low-end retail outlets carrying signature brands of fashionable apparel and accessories; the latest gadgets and international brands of sporting goods; to big supermarkets for daily necessities. These malls provide everything that one needs for a modern lifestyle.

PAMPER YOURSELF

There are several spas that offer a whole range of wellness treatments, from therapeutic massages to body scrubs, to acupuncture, acupressure and sauna treatments. Deluxe hotels also have their own spa facilities. Before heading home, try the Philippine signature massage "Hilot".

DINE AND UNWIND

The Greenbelt and Glorietta complex and the deluxe hotels offer a dazzling selection of fine dining and casual restaurants to suit all tastes and budgets. Visitors enjoy cuisines from around the world. Entertainment bars are also spread out to serve the Makati Avenue, Pasay Road, and Jupiter Street. Makati comes alive at night, with all the lighting from these establishments. The deluxe hotels also have their own posh dining establishments and bars.

TOUR AROUND

Travel around Makati City itself and to other parts of the metropolis is not a problem as the city has a lot of transportation options—from car rental services to buses, taxicabs, jeepneys and the MRT and LRT lines. The Ayala Center is interconnected by covered elevated walkways and underpasses so that traveling around the city is very convenient. Of course, one shouldn't miss riding the e-jeepney in roaming around the streets of the CBD area.

KEEP FIT

Fitness centers are often found inside hotel complexes or at other convenient locations. These offer more than just weight training and cardio training—there are also classes in yoga, Pilates, dance, circuit training, and other fitness regimens. Two global gym franchises, Gold's Gym and Fitness First, plus the local gym chain Gimnasyo World, are also in Makati.

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Travelling for health

seriously and set about implementing a city health program that has become, after more than 10 years, a model for the Philippines and other countries.

"Makati today spends more per capita on health care than any other city in the country. In fact, Makati City spends no amount on healthcare that, when converted to dollars per capita, is equal to that of many developed nations in Asia," said Gabres Tan.

Based on 2008 figures, Gabres Tan computed that Makati spends US$79 per capita on its residents. This is more than what the Philippines spends per capita on healthcare, which is at about US$43.

THE City of Makati has established a health referral system for a "seamless delivery of healthcare" that promotes smooth integration of preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services so the health of their constituents and clients is not compromised.

LANDSCAPED pocket parks in the mall areas offer a relaxing respite from the stresses of work and travel and allow visitors to unwind, relieve and enjoy their stay.

PHILIPPINE handicrafts and products reflect Filipinos' ingenuity.

"MAKATI's robust and progressive universal healthcare program makes it the most medical tourism-ready city in the Philippines", says former Department of Health Secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, now consultant to City of Makati's Health Council.

Public health

"For very little public health issue that Makati City addressed was the ban on smoking, back in year 2002.

"Smoking, of course, was a very big public health concern. Makati was the first city in the country to enforce a city-wide ban on smoking in public places. At first, people observed and were afraid that it would be bad for business. They said that bars and restaurants and clubs would lose their customers."

"For a while, customers did stop coming. But later on there were even more people coming, instead of staying in their establishments. That's because non-smokers outnumber smokers. Even the Peninsula lobby started filling up with even more guests despite the smoking ban," he said.

Another public health concern that Makati City addressed was cardio-vascular illness. According to Gabres Tan, the city provides a 24 percent discount on laboratory tests for cardiovascular patients and a 50 percent discount on heart disease medicines. "These medicines are very effective and the city buys them in bulk for a very low price. Makati residents can avail of these medicines for as low as, say P1.50 per pill," he said.

Makati has also set several records when it comes to public healthcare. It has set several records over the years, including zero incidence of leptospirosis cases, zero incidence of rabies cases, and zero cases of preventable maternal deaths. The city also has a subsidized program for helping patients with AIDS and tuberculosis.

Makati is known for providing many healthcare and social benefits to its residents, especially children, the elderly, and the differently-abled. The children, these include health benefits; free pre-school and elementary education; student, out-of-school school buildings; computer education classes; free textbooks and school supplies; and cash incentives for honor students.

For the elderly, these benefits include health services, monthly cash allowances, and free free birthday cakes and free passes to cinema screenings. The differently-abled also have benefits like free health services; free classroom in the MET; LET; preferential loans and other public transportation; free rehabilitation therapy for indigent differently-abled residents; free movie passes; and many others.

RAMOS he administers in buildings and on the streets shows the city's concern for those who are physically-challenged.

According to Gabres Tan, Makati's robust and progressive universal healthcare program makes it the most medical tourism-ready city in the Philippines.

"The question of public equity has already been settled in Makati. With its universal health care program in all residents, we can say that we are ready to accept medical tourists for treatment because we are already taking care of public health."

"With other cities, perhaps, one can ask, 'Why are you taking care of foreign patients when your own residents are having health problems?' No one can say that about Makati. That's why I'm saying that Makati is the most prepared for medical tourism—beyond just having world-class accommodations and other tourism infrastructure, Makati is already providing world-class healthcare to its own residents," said Gabres Tan.

City government support

None of these, of course, would be possible without the support of the city government. Mayor Jun Binay told everyone that his administration is doing all it can to regularly improve the city's tourism infrastructure as well as its healthcare programs.

"As you know, all of these health services and social benefits are being funded by the city government through its revenues. The city's main sources of revenues are City License fees and Real Property Taxes and there's really little else that we can tap as additional sources."

"So we appreciate the help of our partners in the private sector in developing the city's tourism and healthcare programs. The new tourist map is the first of, hopefully, many more partnerships we will undertake with the stakeholders in the city's tourism and healthcare sectors," said the mayor.

According to Binay the Makati Travel Map shows how Makati is not only a center for business, commerce, leisure, and even national and foreign policy-making, but that it is also one of the most developed cities in the country, home to the country's most advanced, world-class healthcare and wellness facilities.

"The City of Makati is where we can find medical facilities, clinics and wellness centers that are comparable to other developed countries. We are glad to say that quality healthcare for all, both residents and visitors of Makati, is a priority project of the current city administration. This is done through the Makati Health Program," Binay added.

So come and visit the place where you can now more easily find fun, relaxation, business opportunities, and health and wellness. Experience how you can make it happen...whatever it is that you want to happen—right in the City of Makati.

THERE are small parks in various areas outside the mall complex, including the verdant and lush Ayala Gardens located at the back of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

FIGHT TOOTH DECAY WITH THE NATURAL POWER OF NEW LISTERINE® NATURAL GREEN TEA

If you have ever had the misfortune of suffering from tooth decay, you understand exactly how excruciating the pain is. But you are not the only one who is familiar with that mind-numbing ache. Roughly 95 million other Filipinos feel your pain – literally. Tooth decay affects 92.4% of the Philippine population, making it one of the most common oral problems in the country.

The common solutions to preventing tooth decay are those we have heard since our youth: (1) do not eat too much sugary food, (2) brush your teeth after eating, and (3) see your dentist regularly. Though these all help in preventing cavities, there is now a new oral natural way of fighting tooth decay.

The new LISTERINE® Natural Green Tea fights tooth decay because it contains natural green tea and two times more fluoride. Green tea has transcended beyond just the flavor of your favorite drink. The natural goodness of green tea is now in a mouthwash, because LISTERINE® has discovered the natural tooth decay-fighting properties of green tea:

It contains catechins, an antioxidant that inhibits the activity of cavity-causing bacteria.

It contains tannins that helps prevent the build-up of plaque, which is a precursor to tooth decay.

It naturally contains fluoride, which is well-known and recommended by dentists to strengthen teeth against tooth decay.

When green tea and fluoride are combined with the long-established effectiveness of LISTERINE®, the result is a mouthwash that is natural, yet still effective enough to kill 99.9% of germs that brushing alone leaves behind.

However, it is not enough to simply kill the bacteria that cause tooth decay. Just as important is to prevent new cavities from forming. With the new LISTERINE® Natural Green Tea, your teeth are coated with a protective shield that strengthens your teeth against new tooth decay.

So although 95 million Filipinos may currently be suffering from tooth decay, fighting tooth decay can actually be as simple as a 30-second gargle. Now, Filipinos can fight tooth decay with the new LISTERINE® Natural Green Tea.

This product is available in leading supermarkets, drugstores, and department stores for Php70.25 (80ml) and Php166.50 (250ml).

FEATURE

Face thread lifting without the stitch

BOOMERS your pressing concerns are your manifestations and/or any of those wavy lines, platelet lines, pockmarked lines, or skin flaws as the passage of time culminate in the name thread lifting or power roll lifting.

According to an authority on anti-aging and aesthetic solutions in the awareness tackled above, Dr. Mary Jane "MJ" Torres of the Zen Institute, this is a new lifting technique which injects multiple threads for strong lifting effect and for enhancing collagen in the treatment area."

BEFORE AFTER

The thread itself is both safe and effective and, considering that what is used is not a single thread but multiple threads, the effect is much better. In fact, the strong lifting effect by multiple threads—in differentiated lifting effect—is much stronger than single thread products, yielding a high satisfaction in a lifting treatment even without cell therapy. It has a comfort effect for some cells and HGF Platelet Rich Plasma; actually, the multiple threads serve as scaffolding for cell therapy by injecting stem cells and/or doing PRP.

She notes the advantages: "There is a high possibility of cell viability and engraftment as the multiple threads penetrate a wide area available, which among lifting effects."

"Other similar solutions were designed without considering cell therapy, but what we have had gone through maximized improvements, as the procedure yields both effective lifting and cell regeneration and there's been reported high satisfaction due to immediate positive effects on patients whenever it's been used in older countries," Dr. MJ shared.

"Even if at some time, skin aging tremendously progresses, existing creases and wrinkles in the elastin and collagen tissue of the skin's epidermis are destroyed, the damage does can still be recovered through this power roll lifting solution with cell regeneration, elastin and collagen tissue becoming density-composed. With these, the skin is kept healthy or made healthy again."

"We're lucky this is now in the Philippines, and we at The Zen Institute can rightfully claim to have the confidence to do the procedure competently and safely," she added.

To know more on The Zen Institute (A Medical Spa), please visit www.thezeninstitute.com.

DR. MARY Jane "MJ" Torres of The Zen Institute (A Medical Spa)

STA.LUCIA Residenze

Monte Carlo Tower
construction in full swing

Live at your comfort zone!

The Monte Carlo, which is Tower One of the five-tower, master-planned condominium development known as The Residence, will be ready for occupancy by 2014 while its bath-in, two-level mall will be ready by 2013. The property is meant to be the residential haven–the jewel in the crown–of the Sta. Lucia Center, located at the junction of progressive cities of Marikina, Pasig, Antipolo, and the municipality of Cainta. The Sta. Lucia Center complex includes a three-phase mall, The Omnibreak, a restaurant strip for both casual and fine dining, and The Residence.

The Monte Carlo is one of the more exciting projects we are completing today. Construction is at just the right pace and we're thrilled that it will finally be ready for occupancy in two years. Our residents can expect the best living experience once we have finished the tower," said Hallino P. Robles, president, Royale Homes Marketing Corporation.

The main Sta. Lucia mall is also located within the same complex of the Residence. This assures residents that they are able to shop for all their necessities within the property complex itself, sparing them from the stresses of having to travel to some other place for shopping, dining and recreation.

The Monte Carlo has 21-storeys offering 258 units composed of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. The limited number of units on each floor prevents crowding.

Two Bedroom Unit

Units at the 17th to 21st floors of The Monte Carlo are one- and two-bedroom units that open to a panoramic view of the Antipolo and San Mateo hills rising on the east and the Marikina and Pasig valley at opposite sides. Studio units are located at the 2nd to 16th floors. Studio units at the 2nd floor executive area have their own gardens that face the common landscaped garden grounds. Units at The Monte Carlo come fully finished with complete kitchen and bathroom.

Monte Carlo residents will be provided 24 hour security with security guards, CCTV cameras and smoke detectors. For business and recreation, there will be Wi-Fi connectivity and a function hall. Residents will also enjoy the landscaped gardens and swimming pool as well as the open garden.

Would-be unit owners at The Monte Carlo may avail of the very light payment terms that allow up to 36 months to pay for their down payment. Balance may be paid through bank financing.

Convenience and Class

The Residence is perfect for successful young urban and mid-career professionals looking for privacy, convenience and class in their place of residence. Studio units are still available for them and these units could be combined to create a bigger living space. They will surely enjoy the Residence lifestyle that provides the most modern attractions and conveniences in a very accessible, strategic location. The Residence has a modern, elegant design that pays homage to its source of inspiration: the classic beauty of Mediterranean cities.

The Residence is perfect for successful young urban and mid-career professionals looking for privacy, convenience and class in their place of residence. Studio units are still available for them and these units could be combined to create a bigger living space. They will surely enjoy the Residence lifestyle that provides the most modern attractions and conveniences in a very accessible, strategic location. The Residence has a modern, elegant design that pays homage to its source of inspiration: the classic beauty of Mediterranean cities.

The Residence's amenities include a built-in retail, commercial, dining and recreation area, that is part of the high-end component of the Sta. Lucia Mall. Sta. Lucia Mall, which is located within the same complex, will occupy the ground floor to part of the third floor of the Residence. With Sta. Lucia Mall located within the same complex as the Residence, residents are assured that they can find all their necessities within the property complex itself—whether for shopping, dining or recreation. Everything they need is already within close reach.

The Residence is also conveniently close to hospitals and clinics, centers of recreation and entertainment, as well as to churches, universities and colleges. It is owned and developed by Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc., one of the pioneering and most trusted developers in the Philippines. Architectural design is by W.V. Cocciolello and Associates while interior design is by Dongsong & Partners.

Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc. has developed and now operates numerous residential towers and hotels, including La Brisa in Quezon City, Splendido in Tagaytay and Boracayana in Cebu, among others.

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EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK

ROYALE HOMES

Workshop for clinics and small healthcare organizations on international accreditation standards

WITH the growing population and aging people on the rise all over the world, comes bigger demand for healthcare. WHO declares that in order to avoid huge hospital bills, people are encouraged to be more conscious of their health even before chronic illness strikes. Aesthetic centers are also booming as more people search for youthful looks and longevity.

Primary care clinics, ambulatory and aesthetic centers provide part of the solution. This situation bodes well for the healthcare business. But how does the healthcare organizations keep up with the rising demand? How can they make their organization and people work more efficiently? Can health risks be reduced to provide better and quality patient care? What systems need to be in place in order for these organizations to effectively run their business and increase their bottom line?

International accreditation provides assurances on patient safety and quality of care, which are main concerns for patients and health insurance companies. It stimulates continuous improvement for healthcare organizations and promotes efficiency.

On May 7-8, , NABH International in partnership with HealthCORE will conduct for the first time in the Philippines a comprehensive 2-day Workshop on Implementing International Accreditation Standards for Small Healthcare Organizations. Small healthcare organizations are defined as hospitals with bed strength of up to 50 beds. It also includes day care centers and ambulatory clinics that perform surgery and procedures that will require 24-hour observation in the facility.

Learn the global benchmarks accredited by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) to be conducted by international experts and assessors themselves. NABH International is accredited by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) under its International Accreditation Program one of the few accrediting organizations in the world to achieve this recognition. ISQua is an international body which grants approval to healthcare accreditation programs around the world as a seal of excellence.

Among the important topics to be discussed in the workshop are standards on continuous quality improvement, good governance, facility safety, human resources, and information management systems. Standards on assessment, care of patients, management of medication, patient rights, and infection control will likewise be covered, as part of the criteria set by ISQua and implemented by NABH International.

Hospital and clinic owners and administrators, medical directors, quality personnel, medical professionals, nursing supervisors, professionals, and practitioners in the healthcare industry are invited to participate in this training.

To register, please call Reverral Insaya at (63-2-8030) / (0917-8038762) or visit www.healthcore.com.ph

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MakatiMed is the first private hospital designated by the DOH as an HIV treatment hub

Here in the Philippines, the prevalence of individuals infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the disease that causes the failure of the immune system to function properly, is, thankfully, considerably low at less than 1%. But with HIV cases being reported to the Department of Health (DOH) daily, government and health institutions are intensifying efforts directed towards halting the disease.

"HIV is no longer fatal if discovered and treated early. Dr Vilma M. Co, head of Makati Medical Center's Infectious Diseases Section reveals. MakatiMed is the first private hospital designated by the DOH as an HIV treatment hub in 2010, providing effective anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs to HIV-infected patients. The premiere health institution, having realized that the HIV epidemic in the Philippines is rapidly accelerating and that early treatment lowers the risk of HIV transmission, began managing affected patients in the early 90s.

"At MakatiMed, we provide prevention, treatment, care and support services to people living with HIV. Dr Co says. "Our institution puts a premium on the well-being of every patient, regardless of his or her condition.

MakatiMed's Infectious Disease consultants are trained with enhanced skills and knowledge on HIV management, and have developed innovative strategies to address the constraints in delivering the available services to this vulnerable group of HIV-infected patients.

"We encounter the growing number and burden of caring for those infected and affected with HIV, says Dr. Ma. Tarcela Vito, HIV/AIDS Core Team (HACT) chair. "That's why we immediately made the move to train more people and expanded our staff roster. We also upgraded our equipment to provide a more holistic quality treatment.

MakatiMed also shares a strong political commitment to help prevent the fast-paced increase of HIV cases in the Philippines with governments health institutions, the DOH and PhilHealth. The DOH provides MakatiMed the necessary drugs for HIV treatment, including ARVs such as zidovudine, lamivudine, efavirenz, and nevirapine among others; while PhilHealth aids patients on access to their health fund.

Additionally, to be able to reach more patients who need treatment and care, MakatiMed is committed to its partnership with the DOH for information dissemination, provision of health services, and advocacy for compliance to policy and guidelines on HIV management.

"We are honored to be working hand in hand with the DOH and PhilHealth, says Dr. Co. "We believe that this collaborative public-private partnership—the first of its kind for healthcare—is a good strategy to ensure that those affected by the disease remain productive members of society.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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THE VOLCANOES with Bench chair Ben Chan

Explosive!

Find out what makes the players of the Philippine Volcanoes so hot

By Czarinna Ila Sioson, Talin Yang, Contributors
and Luis Carlo San Juan

THEY'RE EXPLOSIVELY hot on the field and on the billboards, but underneath that solid wall of muscle, the Philippine Volcanoes are warm softies who love their moms, girlfriends and adobo. Inquirer Lifestyle corrals some of the players for a short Q&A at a private dinner hosted by Ikot Chan, where we ask them about pregame rituals, supportive fans and support garments.

Michael Letts and Chris Hitch

What is a relationship deal breaker for you?

Michael: Taller than me. I'd have to be taller.

MICHAEL Letts (below, Austin Bacunay and Justin Crawley)

Crazy fan moments?

Michael: It wasn't for me personally; it was for my bestie, Jake. We had just finished a training session, and when we were walking out, there were a couple of Filipina ladies out there with this cake for his birthday which had a little cutie-pie with his head, which I thought was quite funny.

Are you guys superstitious? Do you have any pregame rituals that you absolutely have to do?

Chris: I just laugh myself up. I listen to some music to get myself up for the big game.

Michael: Music, as well. I don't mind Keith Urban when I'm in my relaxation mode, but when it's the game mode, I listen to a bit of reggae, then after that, that new song, "Pursuit of Happiness" by Steve Aoki and Kid Cudi, upbeat music, you know? It gets your blood pumping.

Boxers or briefs?

Chris: Boxers for me.

Michael: It depends. I don't

EXPLOSIVE! P2

Explosive!

Pretzeque C1

LEFT: Jaime Urquijo; above, the Philippine Volcanoes downing off their new Bench watches

mind my briefs, but I scores when I'm sleeping.

Austin Dacaray and Justin Coveney

Does a girl you date have to know the sport?

Austin: You take a girl on her merits. I've got a girlfriend, but if I didn't, just because she's not a fan doesn't close her off to me.

Justin: I would say no, it doesn't really matter, because my wife wasn't a fan before and she still isn't a fan, but she's still really cute.

Was your girlfriend (Santibar) with the sport when you met her?

Austin: She wasn't actually, it's been a bit of a learning curve for her. She hasn't watched me play for the Volcanoes yet, because I haven't played at home yet, so it'd be a really good experience to have her there and experience what rugby's all about.

Do you know any Filipino words?

Austin: Dio.

Justin: I do, because when I need to get in trouble from my mum when I was younger, she used to, like, scream at me, she'd use things like (This not sure if this is a curse word), like she used to say like, "mudi ka ng tatay mo!" and she used to say, "Tanginamoyo!" and I used to get hit with a thong so yeah, but I'm starting to expand my vocabulary, obviously, playing for the Philippines. I came here six times last year and you pick up more words, you learn how to haggle, you just pick up the language.

You learn how to haggle?

Justin: Yowd.

Austin: Magkano?

What food do you eat before a match?

Austin: Nothing special. I try not to eat too close before it, but I'll have a big breakfast and some fruit.

Justin: When I lived back in Sydney, I lived with my mum so I didn't really get a chance as to what I ate, as it was always pancit or chicken adobo or menu, definitely something Filipino, but I don't have a preference just as long as it gives me energy, so one and all the Filipino food is definitely going to do that.

Pregame rituals?

Austin: Music. A lot of music.

Justin: But what kind of music do you listen to? It's kind of funny that the music that I always listen to before a game is The Transformers symphony, the movie score, because if you watch the movie, there's some really high, orchestral notes, it's really cool to jump up, so can my iPod before the game, I'll have the big beats on, listening to Transformers. Don't knock it till you try it. If you listen to it before an interview you'll be yours! ANSWER THE QUESTION!

Craziest fan moment?

Austin: It'll start on Twitter, then fans look, then they'll go to the games. Kind of odd, you'll see it on her, he pulls, take pictures, sign autographs, but when they start touching you it's kind of weird...especially if they're men.

Justin: But for like us, I haven't had really crazy fan moments, they've actually been really respectful. One of our fans on Twitter made us bag tags, so all our bags have our names on them, they made it for us, we really appreciate that.

Terry Carroll and Brian West

Are you a mama's boy?

Terry: Maybe not so much. I've been living away from home since I was young. I went to boarding school and I never really lived at home after school so I never really got to see much of my parents.

Brian: Probably not so much a mama's boy, but in all honesty I think everyone deep down is a mama's boy. I'm pretty much the same as Terry, I moved out when I was seventeen eight and when I finished high school, so I had to learn to fend for myself and grow up really fast, but deep down we're all mama's boys.

Brian, how did you get that scar on your face?

Brian: Had a bit of a plate at practice, I just backed my head to the ground by accident. Thanks to everyone else for pushing me from behind.

What was the worst injury you've had playing rugby?

Terry: I've had a couple of pretty bad ones. I've had two shoulder reconstructions. Playing rugby really wasn't good for my shoulders, that's kind of the worst injury I've had.

Do you guys play pranks on each other?

Brian: I've had to say that the worst prank I've come from myself, mellow Yeoj. It'd probably come from Clee-Cassan, he's well-known for his prank phone calls to Mr. Perez, in past locker, it's pretty good stuff, he's probably the biggest prankster on the team.

Would you give up rugby for a girl?

Terry: I've got a girlfriend now and she can't stand it, so she's really supportive in that regard.

Do you know any Filipino words?

Terry: Just a curse word my mum says when she's angry at me. I don't want to say it.

Brian: Most of my cousins have tried to teach me a few words here and there so I suppose I've learned how to say "Kumusta ka na?" "Salamat po" and "Walang anuman."

What's the first thing you notice in a girl?

Terry: Obviously her looks. The face, usually if they're pretty. 'Cause, obviously you're not going to talk to a girl who doesn't appeal to you. People say "It's what's on the inside that counts," but you're not going to talk to a girl if she doesn't look cute to you.

Brian: I look at a girl's eyes. Definitely her eyes, and if I talk to her I have to see her personality. I'm fortunate that I've found someone really special.

Terry: That's sweet.

Jake Letts, Jaime Urquijo and Steve Howorth

How many Tokusanses does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

Jaime: 24. Tenenouh.

Steve: Good one!

What is rugby to you?

JAKE Letts

JUSTIN Coveney

STEVE Howorth

TERRY Carroll

BRIAN CHANmingthe Volcanoes the best of luck

From trash to world-class: get yourself a fashion tarp bag

DESIGNED by FJ Arcalador and handcrafted by the residents of the PLDT-Smart-donating Gawad Kalinga Village in Sooc

LOADING WIRELESS SERVICES provider Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) formally launched a line of "high-quality, high-fashion" handbags made of discarded tarpaulin materials used for its own outdoor advertising.

Released under the Manilla label of Smart-wary-ally renowned designer FJ Arcalador, the bags are part of Smart's initiatives to provide environmentally and sustainable livelihood to its adopted communities.

Designed by Arcalador and handcrafted by the residents of the PLDT-Smart-donating Gawad Kalinga Village in Sooc, Antrodo District in Cebu City, these bags are one of the outputs of Project Zero, a joint project of Smart, Arcalador and Gawad Kalinga.

"We called it Project Zero because it all started with nothing but a stock room full of used tarpaulin billboards and banners," said Arcalador. "And by using zero electricity and leaving behind zero waste, we managed to create gorgeous products that will help support the livelihood of the Gawad Kalinga residents in Sooc."

The product launching was held at Arcalador's Manilla Shop at SMall in Bonifacio Global, where the products are now available to the island's upscale and foreign patrons. Soon, the bags will be available in Gawad Kalinga's Glo-rentales showrooms across the country.

"When we started our partnership with Gawad Kalinga, we gave homes to several families in Sooc but did not stop there. We helped them build livelihood," said Ayesha Floras, Smart's senior manager for Community Partnerships.

"We are glad that FJ Arcalador came and helped us take the community in creating more marketable, quality products," Floras added.

An Ilonggo himself, Arcalador conducted training for the residents of Sooc, Iloilo, infusing the Filipino influence in the bag designs. Aside from bags, he also trained the residents to create eyeshadow and other cosmetics like blushers, eyeliners and other small items made of discarded tarpaulin materials.

The PLDT-Smart-donating GK Village in Sooc that enabled the launched Manilla bags is composed of more than 600 households with close to 900 members. Aside from tarpaulin recycling, Smart is also pioneering tarpaulin to be turned into tables for building and the creation of useful and decorative clay sculptures.

HANDBAG made of discarded tarpaulin materials

Jake: It's a hobby. I just enjoy playing, that's why I play.

Jaime: It's a passion. I've learned it from a very young age, so that's what I love to do.

Steve: I've been playing since I was nine, it's a big part of my life, I don't think I'll be giving it up till I'm, like, 60.

Did you have to give anything up for the sport?

Jake: Not really, I guess it's just time, but we enjoy the time, it's a win-win situation.

Jaime: You have to make a lot of sacrifices, most of us are students as well. So we had to take time off to focus on rugby, but it's worth it.

Steve: The time, the travel and all that sometimes take a toll on you but it's definitely worth it.

What makes you a right fit for Grouch?

Jake: We're very approachable. Rugby wasn't big before but when Bench came on board they really gave us great exposure. We're very, very grateful for that because to the end that's what you want to do, promote the sport of rugby in the Philippines.

Jaime: They've been with us from the start, very encouraging for us to have down to earth people to have to have someone else's very supportive.

Beasts or Beauty?

Jake: Both.

Jaime: Beasts.

Pregame rituals?

Jaime: I usually have to tape my legs.

Steve: I have to be in a bit of music, just to keep me calm.

Steve: I have to put on my left sock first. I've always done it. It's a bit weird but it puts me in the mindset to get on and play.

Are you a mama's boy?

Jake: Yes.

Jaime: No.

Steve: Definitely.

What's the one thing you look forward to when you come to the Philippines?

Jaime: Food. I love adobo, but also the sweets and stuff. I love ube ice cream and cheese ice cream.

Steve: I thought it was vanilla last night, but right I don't like cheese ice cream.

Jake: The culture. Coming back here, seeing things has made me more appreciative, seeing what my family has gone through, it's great.

Beer do you guys enjoy?

Jake: Basically after training, all we want to do is sleep because we worked so hard the rest of the day.

Jaime: Watch movies, TV shows.

Steve: Go on my laptop, Facebook. Me's a big Facebook user in the room.

What advice do you have for aspiring rugby players?

Steve: Watch as much rugby as possible, YouTube is packed with clips, just type in "Rugby 101." As long as you have passion for it, it'll come.

Jake: You give it a try, you'll like it, bring your friends along, you'll meet a lot of great people. I didn't know this guy before last week, but it looks like I've known him a long time now.

Jaime: And come and watch us.

How I fell in love with my first Ferragamos

The quality of leather and the workmanship make each shoe perfect. That is real luxury

Ingrid Chua-Go

THE BAG HAG DIARIES

When we were really just "bag" people. While most prefer bags to shoes (quite practical, actually, because shoes get easier to accessorize with dirt to [illegible]), they still can't resist a good pair or two of shoes. Or more.

I confess to being such a woman. In fact, here's something you might not have known about me: I was actually a shoe lover first and a bag bag second.

My love for shoes was nowhere near [illegible] proportions, but I once had a pretty good collection, which I had somehow amassed while working in Hong Kong. And then I got pregnant and my feet grew. Case you stumble having to say goodbye to those shoes that no longer fit? That was about the time I decided that bags should take precedence over shoes.

But now? A confession: My shoe love is back—and it's now on a par with my love for bags!

Let me tell you how my love for shoes began. It all started with a pair of Salvatore Ferragamo signature ribbon court shoes from my mother. When I received a pair, those pumps were all the rage. It was actually the beginning of the designer merchandise revolution—at least I thought so, here in the Philippines.

I still remember passing by the Ferragamo boutique with my mother on several occasions to find women buying either the ribbon shoes, ribbon bags or the 3-D monogram silk faces head bands. For me then, it was really all about the shoes.

It was an honor to have been invited to Florence to visit the Ferragamo Museo, Palazzo Spini Feroni, and the Ferragamo shoe factory just before fashion week in Milan began. Going there was like paying homage to what legend our love affair with shoes.

While the primary goal of my trip was to enjoy the history of Salvatore Ferragamo's beginnings as a shoemaker, his work in classic one-of-a-kind pieces, and the 14,000 or so shoes which are already properly archived.

Shoemaker to the stars

Ferragamo's fate was sealed when he made shoes for its sister's confirmation. He moved to the United States and on to Hollywood from Santa Barbara, where he began designing shoes for actors on the silver screen. It wasn't long after that he became known for his made-to-measure footwear, earning him the title "shoemaker to the stars."

Ferragamo furthered his interest in footwear by taking anatomy classes at the University of California to scientifically understand the foot, which in turn allowed him to make better, more comfortable shoes. He was ahead of his time, and was really a hot-shot geek.

Ferragamo is not pushing it self as a fashion company, although it is clear that shoe fashion today has evolved to and takes inspiration from a lot of Ferragamo's earlier designs.

STEFANO Pandi, the other Ferragamo shoemakers, still works with his hands to make the perfect Ferragamo shoe.

At the shoe factory where I met Stefano Pandi, the oldest shoemaker in the company who has been in bond the footwear production, I realized the magazine was about history shoes all else. Stefano showed me how to make a shoe, from the hand-cutting of the leather upper right down to attaching the heels and soles.

The process is, indeed, laborious, because almost everything is handmade and there is little room for mistakes. Just for example, having certain parts of the shoes.

After inspecting the shoes on the production floor, I noticed that special attention was really paid to each shoe. The quality of leather and the workmanship make each shoe perfect. That is real luxury.

I took back on the whole Florentine visit very fondly. I just checked my closet for my dream-old pairs of leather which, after a thorough inspection, are still "alive" and well today.

I realized now that I saved those shoes for a reason—to remind me to invest in quality shoes all else when it come to shoes. While it would be fantastic to own the fantast pair of shoes for the season, it's also always wise to invest in a more classic pair that will not only be comfortable to wear, but will also last you a long time, even with constant wear.

Shoes are a good investment, though perhaps not in terms of trends, like designer bags. When you pay a premium price for a good pair of shoes, you should get good mileage out of them.

But and all, as long as the footwear you purchased made you walk very comfortably, did not give your feet blisters, and lasted a long time, then you've made a good investment. And from my experience, Ferragamo is a shoe to for a good footwear investment—pardon the pun!

Ingrid Chua-Go is a the blogger behind www.thebaghag.com. Follow her on twitter at www.twitter.com/thebaghag

Tutuban night market

THE TUTUBAN Night Market is conveniently positioned around the clock-tower-ends of the Tutuban Center, which was formerly a Philippine National Railways station. A stroll around the restored heritage building gives you a glimpse of history.

Like the famous markets in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur, the Tutuban Night Market is dedicated to the discount hunter. As the Tutuban Center closes for the day, stalls selling clothes, decor toys, furniture, novelty items open up at night.

There is also Food Bazaar to Perusing. Other offers snacks like burgers, lahoprieh, pansit, barbing fish balls, squid balls, adobo, siopao, siomai, bakopoora, wontan. There's also the Food Street at the parking lot where you can buy hot soup, pork barbecue, grilled squid, rice meals.

Jay Park live at Megaworld Lifestyle Malls

Korean singer Jay Park comes to Manila for a concert series. He will perform live on May 4, 7 p.m. at Eastwood City, Quezon City; May 5, 1 p.m., at Ninoy Plaza at Molino by 6th in Fort Bonifacio; May 6, 4 p.m., at Lucky Chinatown Mall in Binondo, Manila. Buy a copy of his album at the concert venues on the day of the event and get a chance to have Park sign your CD.

Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Park is of Korean-American heritage. He broke into the international scene while being the frontman of one of the hottest K-Pop groups. His accomplishments stem from into the dance, television, and film industries.

Catch Park up-to-no-good songs off his "New Breed" album. The 10 tracks in his album tap into varied genres including R&B, dance, electronic hip-hop, and Tone dance. The album is a product of collaborations with top K5 producer Park Kiseo, rising singer Dynamic Duo and other top artists to produce a fresh sound that will bring a fresh sound to his music.

Call [illegible] for more information.

[illegible] and more megaworldlifestyle.com

Nailaholics

Dare to Bare! promo

Nailaholics Nail Salon & Spa, the biggest nail salon chain in the country, is inviting until June 7 the Dare to Bare! promo which gives 20-percent discount on Summer Bare Treatment package which includes manicure, pedicure, foot spa and waxing. Customers can also avail lotion with rice bran oil will be used for the treatments. Rice bran oil is full antioxidants that helps fight aging and promote smoothness. Like Nailaholics Nail Salon & Spa on Facebook for list of branches and to win a special summer package.

Italian brand opens accessories store in Manila

MARIO MAGRI, Italian businessman and founder of Italian fashion label Liu Jo, was in the Philippines recently to explore expansion plans in the country. A Liu Jo accessories boutique opened recently at the second level of The Podium, while a Liu Jo store will be launched in Glorietta before the year ends.

His visit was prompted by the success of the brand among fashion-loving Filipinos, who have made room in their closets for Liu Jo pieces since the opening of its first boutique store in Ayala Center Cebu in 2010.

According to Magri, there is an immense growth opportunity for Italian brands in the country, which he considers a viable market in Asia.

Liu Jo was founded by the Magri brothers, Marco and Vanna, in 1995. Today it has an extensive distribution network with over 350 monobrand points of sales and almost 4,500 multibrand stores, ensuring the presence of the brand in 35 countries in three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia).

It has over 130 stores in Italy, including monobrand stores and outlets, and 3,000 multibrand stores and independent specialty stores selling the various collections. Distribution abroad is managed through over 120 monobrand and outlet stores and approximately 1,500 multibrand stores in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

"The year 2011 was extremely positive for Liu Jo, and we remain bullish in 2012," says Magri. "Our goal is to keep growing."

Liu Jo embodies the spirit of a refined, modern and dynamic woman. Its collections showcase the different facets of feminine emotions interpreted through "a selection of the best materials and a painstaking and scrupulous care for details."

Supermodel and Liu Jo muse Kate Moss captures the brand's spirit and personality—sexy, feminine, intriguing and sophisticated. In addition to her timeless beauty, charisma and natural presence on the catwalk, Moss is described as "an opinion leader and undisputed style icon" whose image is in tune with Liu Jo's ideals.

"Next we are really proud to have her as the face of our campaigns. Having such an icon as Kate gives an extraordinary visibility up: we are placing in the front row!"

ELFERNANDEZ and Liu Jo muse Kate Moss

FERNANDO Fernandez, managing director of Liu Jo Asia Pacific, and Mario Marchi, Liu Jo's founder and head of style

Edsa Shangri-La presents award-winning female chef

ORIANA Trabucco

GUEST CHEF Oriana Trabucco brings her award-winning skills of hand-rolled pizza and other Italian favorites to Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's Mezzanine restaurant.

Having the distinction of being the first and only female to win the World Pizza Competition in Las Vegas in 1994, Trabucco is currently the chef de cuisine of Ilona, the fine dining restaurant of Shangri-La hotel, Jakarta.

In Manila until April 29, Trabucco is a refreshing presence as it has redirected classic her flair for hand-tossed pizza and signature pasta dishes, such as Gnocchi Bolognese with Sweetie Cheese, Pollo tetrato and Risotto Bianco.

Wearing a signature red coat with her chef's emblem, Trabucco brims with passion for her chosen art: the culinary world. This is evident in the way she masterfully cooks, twirls and spins pizza dough to the delight of guests.

Trabucco was born in San Benedetto del Tronto in November 1966 and grew up with a strong-willed grandmother who taught her how to cook from the age of seven. She considers herself a true artist of all forms, having studied arts and advertising in college, and worked as a stylist assistant in Rome.

She returned to her original passion, cooking, in the early 1990s, when pizza making became a global phenomenon. Trabucco then took more culinary courses and worked on the side writing for food-related publications.

"The key is to always study fifty courses in the place," Trabucco says. "I have to create new flavor, new texture but always in the right temperature, because the temperature of food changes everything." She further explains that while artists cloth bring knife sets, she would rather bring her thermometer to ensure precise temperature of the food she is preparing.

Guests may catch Trabucco and sample her Pizza di Campagne at Plaza of Champions at least until Sunday, April 29, during lunch and dinner. Call 8109888 extension 3741 or 3777 for reservations.

Vacation Leave Request Form

Employee Name

Date Submitted | Date Requested: May 4 (Friday)

Reason for Leave: SM Megamall 3-Day Sale (May 4-6, 2012)

Employee Signature | Supervisor Signature

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Amina Arumi Alonso

How working women can inject resort style into office wear

Dare–it's summer. If you can't get away, use fashion as form of escape

THOUGHTS of the blazing sun, crystalline waters, fresh breezy air, and the smell of sun-sun oil are enough invigorating come-ons to put anyone in a vacation mood.

Summer has always been one of my favorite seasons. A certified beach bum, I am not one to stay in the confines of an air-conditioned space, no matter how amazing a room may be. When on vacation, from sun-up to sun-down, I prefer to bask on the sun-drenched sand or soak in the waves. I've always dreamt of spending an entire summer of pure carefree island living in a "Summer Mix." Waking up each day to a vast seascape. Devoted day in and day out to a myriad of swimwear. Indulging myself in seafood feasts. Living the slow-paced life with a sun-kissed tan.

Yet with one's growing list of responsibilities, that longed for seaside retreat will have to wait. In reality, most can take only a brief weekend escape from the island life. The call of the office and deadlines bound the working woman, making vacation planning a little challenging.

This does not mean, however, that we need to miss out on the sense of vibrancy and relaxation that summer brings.

CENTURY Tuna endorsers Derek Ramsay, Anne Curtis and Aljur Abrenica

GEORGINA Wilson (center), Century Tuna Canning Corp. VP and general manager Greg Banzon, Century Tuna Group Product manager Edu Gamboa

CENTURY Tuna Superbods 2012 judges Cosmopolitan editor in chief Myrza Sison Wheelmistic designer Charina Sarte, photographer Mari Medas, Century Tuna Canning Corp. VP and GM Greg Banzon, PCAV Cosmo, president and chief creative officer Arlet Cortiz

NICOLAS Bolotte and Century Tuna endorser Selena Hemmati

ARYANNA Epperson and mom Jenel Epperson, son of the Superbods 2012 judges

EMMA (left), DJ Tony Toni

KENNETH Luzon, AJ Hansen, King Albertus, Cris Lorenzo, JP Tuy

CENTURY Tuna Superbods 2012 grand winners: 20-year-young model Monika Sta. Maria and 14-year-old farmer US Marine John Spainhour

JR BALAC, Superbods 2011 judge Tim Yap

ANDRE Wisniewski and wife Myrza Sison W., Greg Banzon

LAIZA TWINS and JP Tuy

HALLEY Chopard, Regine Angeles, Century Tuna Superbods 2009 grand winner, Tim Yap, Lianne Lazaro and Patricia Fergie, Khai Lee

JUNE Macasaet and Azkal Shane Smith

'Salute to Sexy' heats up summer; all eyes on Cristalle Henares and Azkal date

THIS IS IT: Vice Ganda at last for birthday girl DJ Anvil Montano and Century Properties creative director Cliff Reyes

CENTURY TUNA Superbods was held in Boracay and drew sexy bodies and the famous celebrities, paluspalus. Century Tuna called the affair "Salute to Sexy."

Twenty awesome hunk-tastance—all eye-catching hunks and beauties—competed to become the next ambassadors of healthy living paluspalus.

Twenty-four-year-old Monika Sta. Maria, college graduate, a former US Marine soldier, and 20-year-old model Wanikka Sta. Maria were the toast of the the judges. They were an exclusive contract with Century Tuna worth a cool half a million pesos. Wow!

The literally sizzling hot event got the sun-persistent popping out its fiery facial with the presentation of Century Tuna celebrity endorsers Anne Curtis, Sakura Kinoshita, Derek Ramsay and Aljur Abrenica.

For the winners, it was total adrenaline-high excitement, while for those who didn't make it, it was time to party hard. For everyone, it was time to linger the breakfast, lot, for a night of music and celebration. It was time to party, for tomorrow will be another day!" said one of the attendees to me.

Century Tuna Superbods 2012: Salute to Sexy became a reality, thanks to Gold's Gym and 7th High Club in Bonifacio. It was supported by Gardenia High Fiber Whole Wheat Bread, Centrum, Stella Dora and Dona Rosario milk beverages, Cobo Pacific and Opus suzuki.

We must not forget the support extended by Astoria Boracay, Hacienda Inn, Holiday Gym and Spa, Lighthouse Strip Manila, Dusites Hotel, Shang Tsai and SkyPalace, for healthy munching, dahlings.

Birthday bash

One of my fave wise paluspalus, Century Properties' brilliant creative director Cliff Reyes, threw a truly memorable birthday bash for his lady love, gorgeous Andi Manzano, at the posh Opus Business and Lounge in Resorts World Manila, dahlings.

A lavish, well-chosen dinner menu for 80 of Andi and Cliff's closest pals was prepared by chef Carlo Miguel, who treated us to such sumptuous dishes such as Duck Sisig Bunny, Crispy Skin Salmon Fillet and Roasted Chicken Ballotine Brochure, which had some treat-eating contest for seconds of it. That's how good it was, dahlings.

After served warm, no lackluster, Opus Alpine mocktails to match, giving us the perfect party mood adrenaline high, paluspalus.

The bash later escalated into a full-blown happening with loads of Andi's other invitees arriving for the epic dinner party. Many took to the dance floor at Opus' chic lounge where they busted some realness, rustic and wild.

Andi, one of the most popular DJs on radio today, was clearly on cloud nine, as she partied with all her guests and her loving boyfriend GF till way past Cinderella's bedtime, dahlings.

GF: Indeed, as we said: "Yes, she's the one." He had that look of finally finding the true love of his life, paluspalus.

Moral of the story—never rush or look for life or life. Right? One day your paths will cross and you'll know, paluspalus. This is it.

Replay fashion event

Store Specialists Inc. had music and fashion blending together, and invited our town's top VIPs for the launch of its latest popular denim wear, Replay. Dubbed "Rock-odes," the event at the chic Opus Lounge was expertly hosted by Iz Hastagi, who pumped up the crowd with her incredible energy.

Models wearing Replay's Spring Summer 2012 Collection showed off the eye-catching designs as they welcomed the evenings and took photos of them with Polaroid cameras as souvenirs for the event.

Denim alone you could bet on eyeballs, all eyes were on gorgeous Cristalle Henares and her latest squeeze, faked Aaron Sakes, making their grand entrance.

The irresistible Tina Tanseco, with her hand The Beats, got the crowd dancing with her irresistible beat, and got on stage unstoppable jammers who sang their hearts out to the crowd sing along.

My paluspags, Team Prieto-Valdez, threw all caution to the wind and danced with the buoyancy of Replay model. Well, that's my clubbing Team. Don't you just love her?

The sensory of Replay's womenswear line is the flare of the dress and short overalls in light denim. Shoes have a fine fabric toe with a masculine look, with a loose fit, distressed wash and patches.

The menswear had trendy wash to a modern electric blue shade with trendsetter faded areas for the new inspired wearability. It was known at the top and right at the bottom with pleats.

Replay is exclusively distributed by SM and has a shop at Greenhills 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

TWIN Zaborsky, Erik Cua, Mel Pena, Ida Garcia

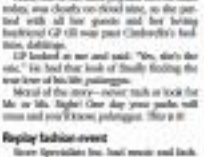
BOBBIT and Ryan Manzano

PANGILIST Darin, DJ Jamanta

CHEYES, Andi Manzano, Ida Garcia, Fran Dilla, DJ Rico Arce

JH BOOKINGS, Grace Lee, Tim Yap, Daisy Reyes, Ryan Manzano

TIM Wiki, TINA and wife G Tsang-Mahon; Tina Prieto-Valdez and husband Derek Valdez


THE HOYERS and dealers behind Replay's successful summer collection in Opus. Replay Visual Merchandising manager Danielle Peder'sen, Store Specialists, Inc. Marketing Communications manager Maia Francisco, Replay Merchandising manager Vincent Lee

AZKAL Jason Salvio, Bella Gutierrez, Carla Garcia, Cristalle Henares

SPORTSCASTERS Vince Nuno and wife Patricia Bautista-Nuno

YOUTUBE sensation Ashley Rivera as "Miss Nobleprop!", Michael Concepcion

JENAINE Atienza, Princess Arcilla

GRETCHEN Fullido, MJ Muñoz

MARY Claire Dodd, John Spainhour

FIRST runners-up Axel Bisera Smith and Jane Marasure; second runners-up Josefa Olufson and JC Bautista

How working women can inject resort...

From page B1

When we have no choice but to be stuck in the city fashion can be a form of escape!

The fashion world has long recognized the allure of resort wear. It is easy, breathable, youthful and fresh. In fact, aside from the standard Fall and Spring collections, a "Resort" fashion season emerged.

It was conceptualized to cater to affluent customers who escape harsh cold winters for sunnier holiday destinations. Today Resort, also known as Cruise or Pre-Spring, collections have become a staple in many designers labels. They are no longer an exclusive and upper-crust.

Perhaps because of the rise of fast fashion brands (like Zara and H&M), the Resort collections have evolved into a season for designer labels to keep up. Designers now found another opportunity to offer fresh merchandise between the two major seasons, pacing the idea of season less sportswear dressing, where pieces can withstand from season to season. It pushes the belief that it is no longer necessary to switch wardrobes between winter and summer. Indeed, it is a more practical approach to fashion.

This concept is typical and very much applicable to Philippine lifestyle since our climate generally remains constant. Filipinos can wear the same wardrobe all year round. Be may see organic fall, winter and spring, but local retailers and designers constantly spurn out collections with seasonal directional hints to keep things new, exciting and relevant for the consumer.

So this summer, just because you may be stuck in an office building with thoughts of an island getaway on your mind, it does not mean that you don't get to have some fun. Why not bring in the feeling of destination and leisure into the boardroom? Treat yourself to some fashion Fun! Let your pieces with a light summer impulse come over to the workroom.

Here are some of my resort favorites that find its way into my workwear wardrobe.

1 A beach basket—Store your leather briefcase for now. Why not wear a leisurely straw tote to brighten up a day at work? I once saw a woman in London wearing a basket right to the think of winter.

How working women can inject resort style...

From page C6

2 **Fun sunglasses**—Shield your eyes from the glaring sun as you walk through the concrete jungle! Go for colored or whimsical styles to liven up the mood.

7 **Pants dress or Monos**—This loose-and-relaxed silhouette is a staple of resort wear. Kim wears us a crewneck top at middle. For work, pair it with polished shoes and jewelry.

9 **Pastels**—Soft, opaque, colored hues are the rage. Try pairing pastel-colored pants for a soothing and clean take on work wear.

8 **Statement accessories**—Pile on necklaces and bangles made of wood, shells or cute semiprecious stones. It instantly lends a resort vibe!

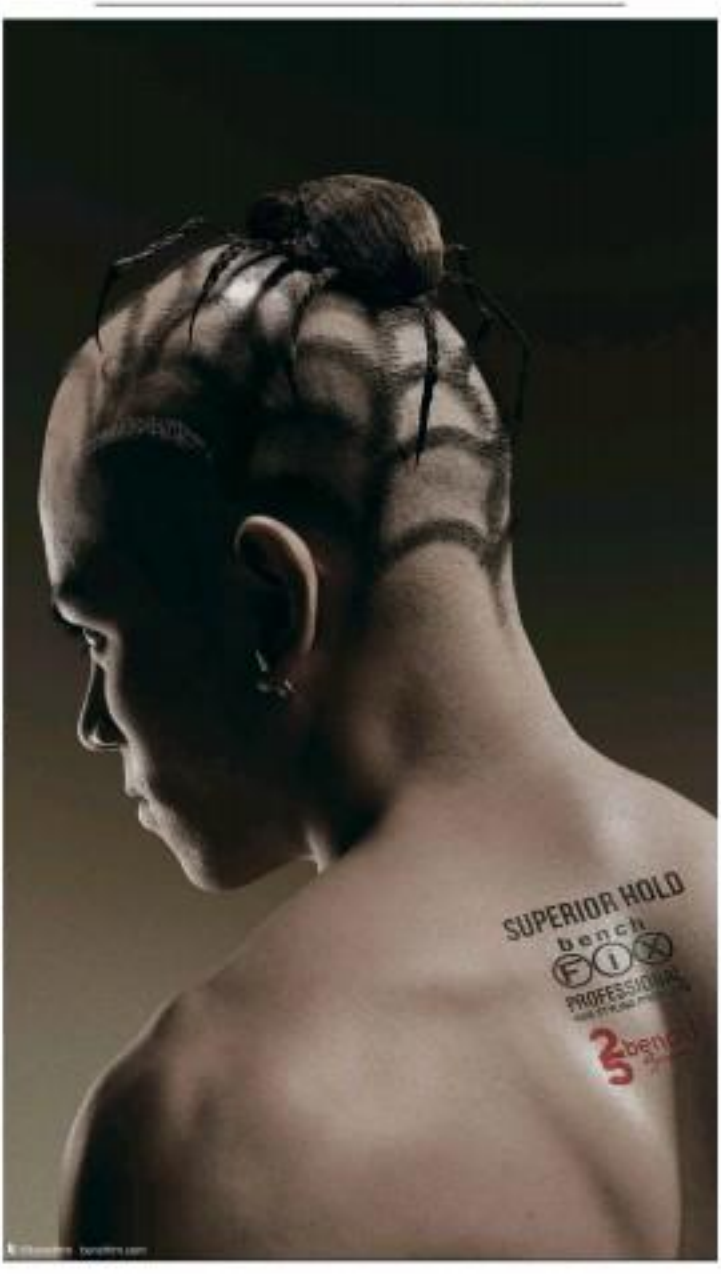
10 **Printed pantsuit**—Not for the faint of heart, instead of a black work suit, dare to wear head-to-toe prints. A matching tailored jacket and trousers are super chic.

3 **Colored nail polish**—Some of my favorite shades this season are soft pastels such as blush, aquatic green, and butter yellow.

4 **Eyelet, lace, crochet**—A trademark material for resort wear is airy and breathable sport mesh. The look is all more youthful and lively!

5 **White trousers**—Not a quick summer shift, ready to wear trusty black blazer for a crisp white one. It's cool yet still professional.

6 **Printed knit twin-sweater blouses**—For a knit sweater take on office wear, instead of wool tonal solid wear or black knit, top-down blouses, collect a multitude of printed ones from Zimala, used to Hawaiian motifs. It easily transforms black slacks and pencil skirts to summer worthy looks!



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+ Radish Baguio ₱31.50/kg • Lettuce Baguio ₱84.00/kg • Sayote Fruit ₱12.60/kg
+ Potato Regular ₱37.80/kg • Cucumber ₱33.60/kg • Baguio Beans ₱57.75/kg
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2bU LIFESTYLE

Two acacia trees, decades old, stand healthy at Ayala Terraces Cebu

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Reading, with feeling

'Aside from reading's effect on mental development, it also shapes emotional maturity'

By Laira Janelle C. Contreras
Student contributor, UST

LAST WEEK to the bookstore, one of the coolest places on earth, made me remember my childhood moments. Back then, I thought reading would just bore me. I would rather play with video games and dolls than read. When people around me started reading books, newspapers and magazines, I wondered how it felt to glance through pages with no pictures at all.

I challenged myself to try reading as I grew up, and noticed that I wasn't bored. Aside from reading's effect on mental development, I found that it also shapes emotional maturity. Here are what some famous writers say about what reading can do for you.

"We read to know we are not alone." —C.S. Lewis. One of Princess de la Rochefoucauld's maxims reads, "We all have strength enough to endure the misfortunes of others." That is, if we have problems, we tend to look at the bigger troubles of others to make us feel better. This is common human behavior to ease personal pain. If we have problems, it also helps when we read books or non-fiction accounts to strengthen our imagination. We find out that characters or other people have bigger problems than us, and we learn that somehow, we are not alone in our loneliness, and if they can endure and solve problems, so can. One.

A few nights ago, I listened to a radio program where the host was especially cursing the caller because of her confessed love problems. If that makes you feel better, and if you feel that it's constructive criticism, okay. But instead of shaming yourself by letting a DJ curse you on air for confessing how you feel, try reading about love and heartaches instead. Because in this help ease the pain. Somehow, we discover that we can pick up the missing pieces of our broken hearts again, and maybe, move on as the character moved on.

Reading during dull moments of the day lessens wasted moments to our level. I came across people who read in the library during break time, people who bring their favorite book to coffee shops, and people who read self-help or inspirational books, and others who read horror books for a thrill. They say they are able to direct movies in their head.

Ticket to everywhere

As Mary Schmich said, "Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere." Reading adds in the social well being of a person. It is hard when people talk about something and you cannot relate. It creates a feeling of being left out. If we have knowledge about what is happening in the world, and if we know about current idiosyncrasies or trends, we will also know how to argue or defend our principles. And with the rapid change in fashion and style, reading can help us keep up with what is new.

Knowledge and humor acquired from reading can make a person look good. A professor once told us a joke about courtship. If a man tries to court a lady, it helps when he knows a lot of things. He even joked, "You will always have something to say when you are talking to a good-looking person."

Reading can help you create a better world. My friends and I interviewed a health reporter, and one of the many insights she shared with us that struck me most was, "Other jobs can be lucrative. You can be earning that much, but you are not happy. And you can't make a difference."

Some articles and stories really make a difference. We learn what to do and what to avoid. We'll also know when to help, and when to help ourselves, as well.

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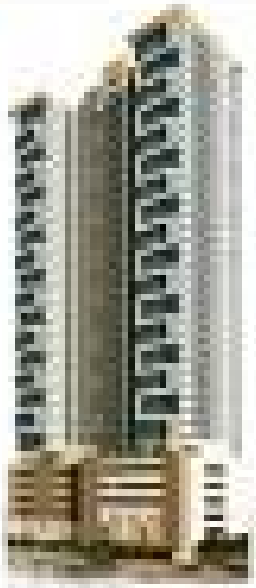

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2bU LIFESTYLE

San Beda vs Ateneo: champion vs champion

In a rare but thrilling match, old rivals San Beda and Ateneo meet again in the FilOil summer league

By Marco Angelo Cabrera
Student contributor, San Beda Alabang

SUMMERTIME marks the beginning of the preseason basketball leagues like the 2012 FilOil Flying V Preseason Hanes Cup. This magical league lets schools that wouldn't otherwise strut in the season proper clash for athletic school supremacy. Member schools from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) collide before they return to their respective leagues in the upcoming season.

On April 21, the blue and white from Rizal-proud climbed once again with the red and white from Mendiola, as they rarely have since 1977—and long was it a game to remember! The lovers in San Juan were awash in a sea of blue and red as Ateneans and Bedans trooped to the stadium and filled it to capacity despite the lack of advertising and no live TV coverage.

Unlike the previous Ateneo vs San Beda encounters, this year's line-up was a little different: both schools came into the game with several notable changes. Most notably, the Red Lions have a new head coach, Bonnie Magsanoc, while the Katipunan Boys were unexpectedly under the guidance of amateur mentor Randy Arroyo—who, as head coach Norman Black was in the US for a coaching clinic.

Undefeated

Both schools were coming undefeated into the game with a perfect record of 2-0 in the season league. In addition, both schools are the reigning champions in their respective

SEE NEXT PAGE

Chasing happiness and spirituality

AND THEN, I opened my eyes... That was the end of another meditation session—which followed the ritual of closing my eyes, quieting my mind, and reassuring myself my inner self. I used to roll my eyes over meditation and all that so-called fancy talk, but lately it has wanted to work better for me.

This isn't an article on religion, since it can be a touchy subject. Let's just say I'm throwing ideas around on how I am able to connect in this spiritual side of my life.

Wikipedia gives me a better definition: "Spirituality can refer to an ultimate or an alleged immaterial reality; an inner path enabling a person to discover the essence of his/her being; or the deepest values and meanings by which people live."

If there are things I've learned lately, it's how much I wanted myself to change. In the years I starved modeling and my media career, I've chased after things I thought would make me happy. I was convinced having accomplished certain things would guarantee me a good life, whether it was by wearing a certain brand or by being seen in a certain place, or even being associated with a certain group of "it" people. I thought to myself, once you checked off everything on the "How to Be Hip!" list, happiness would follow.

But it never really did. In fact, the more I

decorated myself with labels of what I thought I wanted, the things that made me look good on the outside, the further I seemed to be from attaining any kind of happiness.

I was slowly feeling myself miserable, trying to keep up with all the nonsense. It was as if living to keep pretending.

Lately, I've found deeper happiness in the things that are found within myself. A few years ago, I started to spend more quiet moments in reflection and contemplation. I made prayer a priority part of my lifestyle, and I found ways to listen to my inner voice more.

The most amazing things started to happen soon after. Happiness came to me quickly and simply. I didn't chase it at all. I just found myself in the right place. I found it in every small little thing, like the sound of my dog's Dalmatian walking into my room, or the smell of fresh laundry. I found it during conversations with my mom, and laughter with my friends.

It wasn't cloaked in a new, must-have item, or a status symbol. Instead it was cloaked in qualities I was starting to discover in myself. Like forgiveness, and compassion and love—for self and others.

I found happiness through the confidence I acquired doing the things I truly love... like writing, and learning, and sharing those things. I think discovering my mind really helped me make better decisions. Did you know what? It's not the end of my journey yet...

I still have a long way to go. In spite my progress, I am still conscious of the way I write, even though I am now my second year in this column, I still have blocks where I worry what people will think about/of everyone?). I still try to be brave to speak my mind honestly. The point is: I'm taking baby steps to find more happiness and productivity.

This month's column won't be a column with any "how to be spiritual or how to find happiness" steps because with spirituality and happiness, I think it's a personal discovery for each person. Whether it be out on the mountains or in the corner of your room, do what works for you. But I do recommend that you start.

And because I told Ricky to write about his struggle, I want to practice what I preach, and pick up right where Ricky left off in confessing vulnerability and tell you what's weighing on my mind.

My feelings toward religion confuse me more than almost anything on this planet. They always have.

I keep telling the story about asking my mother in the time leading up to my First Communion if I could wait until I was old enough to make the decision for myself after "seeing what else there was out there." She obliged.

And though a still nodding participant and prepared me for a Church wedding, and the Church wedding was the day of my First Communion, I don't know that I was any more cognizant of understanding my feelings about Catholicism then, than I might have been at the age of seven.

But where religion is something I feel I need to continue learning about (which may be the driving force in my going to Mass every Sunday without fail), my spirituality has been a journey of absolute discovery and like most things in life, the path to spiritual maturity has been riddled with all sorts of satisfying head nodding and floods, beautiful sunrises and multi-dates.

It starts decisions can, to a certain degree, be likened to youth, lack of guidance, or circumstance—all beating age-old wisdom. Yet all of the learning has somehow felt familiar, like something that was inside you from the beginning.

I experience spirituality most when I'm in the ocean, or when I'm listening to music. I've

"CLEARING my thoughts: I like to spend a lot of time with nature, and I feel so energized after." —Ricky Rivera

'The more I decorated myself with labels of what I thought I wanted, the things that made me look good on the outside, the further I seemed to be from attaining any kind of happiness'

NO FREE LUNCH

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Now playing:

"I'm not giving any song recommendations for this column. I recommend to just spend a few minutes a day in quiet time, and be still... listen." —K

"MUSIC is my escape, my prayer, my motivator, my reason. My inspiration, celebration, reaction, truth and offering." —Sarah Meier-Allison (Photo: Shuman Ines Bagsic as she Makabili Music and Arts Festival)

SAN BEDA and San Beda Alabang bands united in jubilation

San Beda vs Ateneo: champion vs champion

From page F1

leagues, with San Beda having a back-to-back championship in the NCAA, while Ateneo achieved a remarkable four-peat championship in the UAAP.

Aside from the main event, there was also the pomp and pageantry that accompanied the electrifying atmosphere in the arena. Both Ateneo and Beda hordes fueled and jeered at each other in a throwback to the days of yore, when basketball games were still battling it out in the NCAA.

During the half-time performance, the Ateneo Blue Babble Battalion put on a simple yet solid and clean performance to reassure the Ateneo's fifth man of their lead. The cheerleaders from Ateneo performed crowd-pleasing stunts and traditional cheers synonymous with the blue side, like Dahlia and Blue Eagle Spelling.

On the upper bleachers of the arena, the war drums of both schools filled the crowd's spirits into a frenzy. The pulsating beaters of the gangs, the Ateneo Blue Babble Band, and San Beda College Band played vigorously and intensively the mood of the game. More notably, the SBC band lent additional reinforcements from its brother school in the south, the San Beda Alabang band.

The battle lined up the Bedans proud as they slammed out the "Go Mentor" cheer with their trademark Lion's Roar and Defiant Will, when unexpectedly

ATENEO'S "Tower of Power" Greg Slaughter

the Lions were gaining the lead.

Even though the hero from Medalla never really hailed his star first cheer position, Beda got in touch as they took an they slowly narrowed the huge 16-point gap the Blue Eagles carved before them. Filipino-American import Julius Alolino showed his fine fighting form as he and Nigerian giant Ola Adeogun ran down the deficit to single digits by the beginning of the fourth quarter.

As crunch time approached, the Blue Eagles' Kiefer Ravena and Greg Slaughter did all they could to tow back the title against the overreaching Red Lions. But as the game reached the penultimate stage, it was starting to dawn on the blue-and-white crowd that Ateneo was going to be stripped of last year's dominant victory over the Manileños based squad.

In the final curtain, former Red Cub MVP Ravena unleashed on Ateneo's tantrums and showed his stuff when the Red Lions rambled him more so he sank all four of his free throws. Only Greg Slaughter's two-point shot in the final buzzer narrowed the score but still didn't prove enough to deny the Mighty Red School of its victory.

Three years since their last victory over the Blue Eagles, the Red Lions finally were again in an amazing comeback-from-behind victory. Red Lions coach Bonnie Maganzo said it best when he said, "I think it was all about the fighting heart of the kids."

For the Red Lions, it extends his great for them to bask in this amazing victory when you're the ruling.

Whatever side you're cheering for, I can certainly say this was the best PBA I've ever seen.

ATENEO'S Blue Babble Battalion, the dancers during halftime

The fountain ...

From page F4

my skin looked more even-toned and dark spots left by old pimples disappeared.

After a month of use, the rest of Phil pimples were even there, and the bright didn't leave me with sallow skin or breakouts the way I did before, and I didn't even need to use my dermatologist for our usual monthly oil-sapping session. I have now expanded my anti-cream routine to include an eye cream as well as the hand cream.

The best part about it is the price. Because Tony Moly's oils or venture involves manufacturing cosmetic packaging for big name beauty brands, it is able to funnel its profits into product research and making sure the cosmetic you more than the actual packaging is big portion of a beauty product's cost is to cover the packaging expenses). You'll be able to maintain your skincare routine without breaking the bank.

If the thought of slathering snail slime all over your face seems icky, don't worry the products don't smell or look like snails. If you are concerned about the snails' welfare, rest assured that the snails are not harmed to extract the snails.

The only results you will get from shining your face with snail essence are smaller pores, clear, even skin and fewer wrinkles. How ain't that worth the slime?

Tony Moly is at AM Megamall. Visit www.tonymoly.ph.

ATTENEO Core Snail Eye Mask

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The fountain of youth—how snails could be the key

The only results you will get from slimming your face with snail essence are smaller pores, clear, even skin and fewer wrinkles

By Tara Yap
Contributor

A LOT OF breakthrough beauty products are the results of happy accidents. Eyelash growth serums were discovered when patients under a new glaucoma medicine developed the pleasant side effect of longer lashes. The drug Retin-A, discovered and developed in the late 1970s, was an antiacne/fine stamina treatment cream; users noticed how their wrinkles seemed to have disappeared with continued use, and today, exfoliants and its derivatives are still one of

TONY MOLY Intense Repair Live Snail Hydrogel Mask

the go-to ingredients for anti-aging creams.

Chilean snail farmers, who grew snails to be exported as food, discovered through their harvests that cuts or abrasions on their hands that came in contact with snail slime healed rapidly, leaving the skin smooth and clear.

Scientific research would later show that snail mucin was effective in improving skin elasticity, along with providing regenerative and protective properties. In fact, snail cream is fast becoming a hot commodity in the eclectic skincare snack market.

All homegrown

In Seoul, the streets of popular tourist spot Myeong-dong are peppered with beauty boutiques selling fine-tuned in colors, purities and prices. You won't see a recognized American or European beauty brand, it's all homegrown, and it's all good. Japanese women would regularly visit Seoul like a beauty pilgrimage, flocking to the boutiques to stock up on snail creams, cruelty-versus-wrinkle fillers and yeast masks.

During a tour of cosmetics brand Tony Moly's headquarters and boutiques in Seoul, we saw just how brisk business is. The Duty Free floor at Lotte department store was filled with women on a buying frenzy, forget facial rejuvenating, the monks never land up in shelves, packed and ready to be snapped up, the customers just wanting their creams and serums fast.

This particular small kiosk of Tony Moly makes $10,000 a day from selling skincare alone. And it doesn't even sell the makeup—you'll have to visit a different boutique for that.

Tony Moly's skincare products have been gaining devout followers, including members of parliament and government officials, according to the brand's CEO, Kim Jeong Cheon.

"Even though they have the means to purchase more expensive brands, they still choose to buy Tony Moly," said Kim.

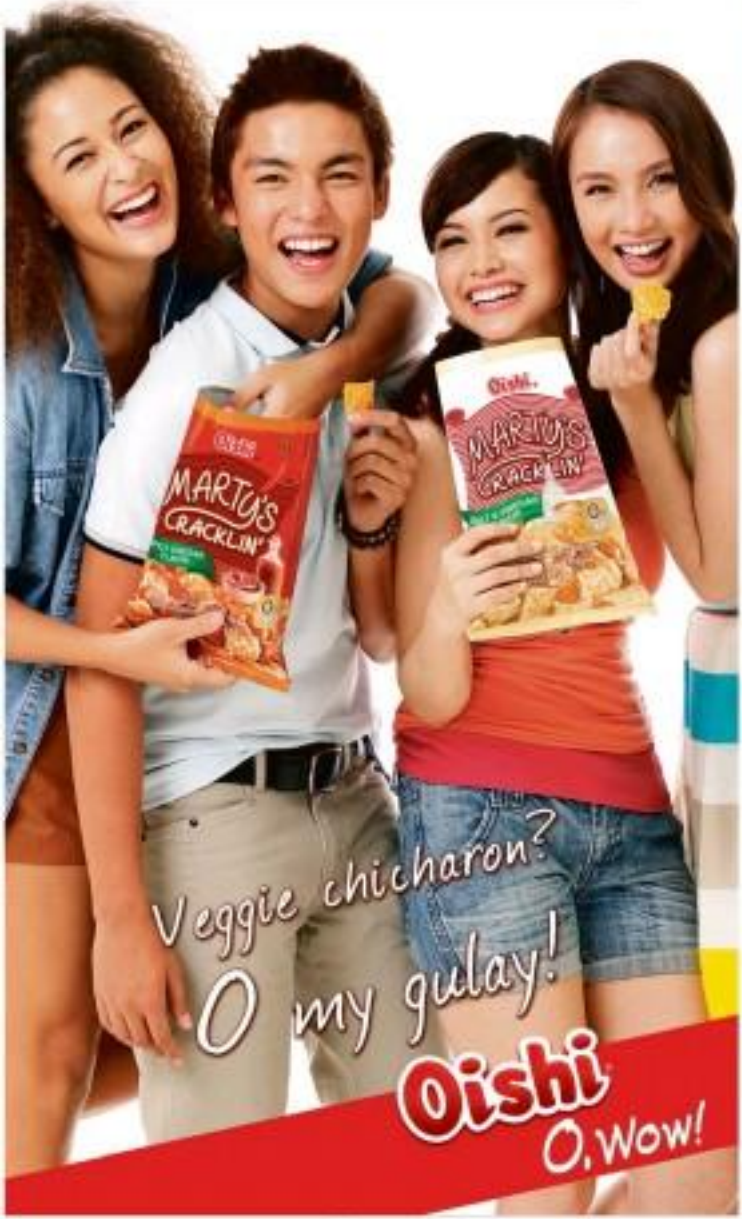
We were given the chance to try out the snails for ourselves at Hyunjae Spa. The snail line covers everything from cleansing to base makeup, as well as more intensive add-ons like ampoules containing 92 percent of snail mucin concentrate, and also a week treatment masks.

Impressive results

I was impressed with the results. My skin was left with a glow, and it felt hydrated without that oil slick feeling. I was so wowed that I found myself back at the Tony Moly First boutique the next day to stock up on masks and ampoules. I achieved my regular beauty routine to include the ampoule, applied nightly after my moisturizer, and a facial mask once a week, and within a week

THE FOUNTAIN OF

INTENSE Repair Live Snail Eye Cream with free Skin and Lotion



LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Help your cosmetics beat the summer heat

THE HEAT is just crazy these days that not only am I worried about how it will affect my skin, but also how my beauty products would fare.

When it comes to making cosmetics and beauty products last longer, lower temperature does the trick better, for a week now, I have darkened scene of day have in a ziplock and put them in the refrigerator where cheese is supposed to be stored. I didn't want to wait for my lipstick to melt (anyway, already) and know that the heat would definitely make my skin products change their consistency faster.

Lipsticks are prone to oxidation, and the little smear beads are actually oil coming out of the wax, which would make the lipstick spread unevenly. This process of "sweating" is called syneresis. What alarmed me was when I was about to apply my foundation with SPF and noticed that its consistency had changed. I wasn't sure if the SPF would still be effective, so I threw the product away.

Now I have three bags of ziplocks—one for products I use during the day, another for those I use at night and a third for some Mrs cosmetics and my HWC polish in Little Girl. But only do I know I am prolonging the shelf life of my products, but using them has also become more pleasurable.

Many eye creams claim to reduce puffiness, but only a few really deliver this result. Surprisingly I've noticed since putting my eye cream in the ref that puffiness has not been a problem. It does make sense, using cool cucumbers on the eyes, or even a cool sandwich, delivers the same result. It's the temperature of the product that helps reduce puffiness, so the cold does give the eye cream that extra boost.

Refreshing

Also, ever since I've used Kiehl's Anti Damage Protecting Toning Mist, I've been hooked. It's 146-percent natural and clin-

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

LA MER Eye Shake Intense

The sun is bad not only for our skin, but also for the beauty products we love

HARIO Bedrock Vitamin C Serum is great on skin—and found in my veil.

DON'T allow your fave lippie to stain. Chanel lipstick

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA — BY ED MINDA

PUGAD BARDO — BY PAT LIGHOT

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ABERIN

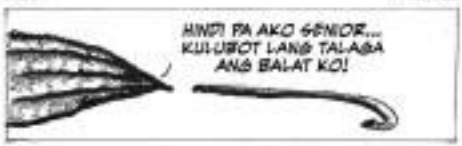
SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLI



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). Discussions with others are apt to be unpleasantly tense. Your verbal abilities will be at their best, so you'll be able to express yourself well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). You're in an excellent day for business and commerce. In fact, all financial dealings will favor you today. Trust your inner instincts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). This is a fortunate day for romance. You'll find it to be very stimulating and invigorating. Your mood will be upbeat and optimistic.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). You feel content today. No matter what the details of your life are, you know that you are where you're supposed to be. You're a happy camper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Mind-blowing groups, meetings and social get-togethers threaten to make the world of others fade to fact. Associate with others who can help you to feel grounded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Work and business will take you to new and interesting places. Your contacts will be diverse, confident and opinionated. Work this to your benefit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Your self-confidence will be at its peak. Your ideas will be original and unique. Your creativity will be at its height. Don't be afraid to express yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Be as motivated as ever to enhance your self-worth through the wealth it offers today. Increase this to possible. Investments, loans and stock gifts from others are also very lucky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Not the day for impulsive decisions with partners and close friends. Temper your desire to control them in mind. There will be a sense of mutual generosity, which is good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Those of you at work will be energized to get along well with customers, clients and co-workers. Work-related opportunities abound.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Illuminating thoughts, ideas and plans with others today. This can be a fun day for parties, playful activities with children, exploring the arts and all social associations.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

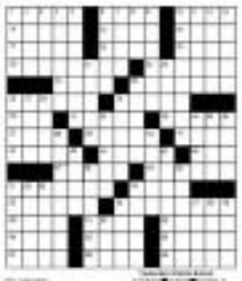
8	1	6	5	3	7	9	4	2
2	9	5	3	4	8	6	1	7
3	4	7	6	1	9	2	5	8
9	5	1	7	2	3	8	6	4
7	2	3	8	9	4	1	7	5
4	6	8	1	5	6	3	2	9
1	8	2	4	6	5	7	9	3
6	3	4	9	7	1	5	8	6
5	7	9	2	8	3	4	6	1

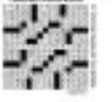
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		6				9		
2			3		4			1
		4				2		
9				7				6
7				8				4
4				6				5
		2				5		
6			1		8			9
		3				7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Nail polish is the new lipstick

It has surpassed lipstick in sales, and there are good reasons why

By Pam Pastor

THERE'S no doubt about it—nail polish is the new lipstick. And I'm not just saying this because of my nail obsession.

In 2001, Estée Lauder board chairman Leonard Lauder coined the term "lipstick index." It describes a phenomenon in the early 2000s: an increase in lipstick sales despite the recession.

During hard times, when people tighten purse strings and cut back on bigger luxuries, women turn to the cheaper thrill of makeup.

And who can blame them? When you can't afford that hot bag or killer new shoes, cosmetics are a great way to inject color into one's wardrobe.

LAURA Mercier's Trio Chic Collection

MAC Play from Disney Fairies

ESSANO, Bulgari and Holiday Chanel's Summer 2012 collection

DEBORAH Lippmann's Candy Shop and Forget You

Nail polish index

Over a decade later, the lipstick index has been replaced by the "nail polish index." Market research firm Mintel revealed that lipstick sales have been dwindling since 2007. NPD Group, another market research firm, reported that while lip product sales grew by eight percent in the first 10 months of 2011, nail polish sales increased by 19 percent.

Jehorah Lippmann, manicurist to the stars and the woman behind the popular nail polish line of the same name, has witnessed the growth. "It's exploding!" she said. "Nail lacquer is literally splattering everywhere and is growing in popularity because we wanted getting into the trend (when the recession hit, and we had to rethink how we did things.

"Women started doing their own nails and realized how fun it could be to create their own look."

Ji Park, founder of Forever Beauty Lounge, is not surprised by the increase in demand. "You may not wear green or yellow lipstick, but you can emulate the color blocking trend in your nails, finding strategic complement your mani to the bright yellow handbag that you will wear for only one season." It's New York-based beauty nail polish line has fans all over the world.

"Nail color is an affordable indulgence," said Ramon Dimit, NPD's global beauty industry analyst. "The size of the market is burgeoning, and there's a huge opportunity for doubling or even tripling growth."

But we don't need a research firm to tell us that. There are signs all around.

In 2010, cosmetics giant Coty bought popular nail polish brand OPI for a reported $1 billion, while beauty brand Sirkud acquired Essie for $28 million. Dior released 27 nail polish shades in 2011 and it seems best on beating that record this year. Chanel continues to produce cult favorites, with solid-one limited-edition shades still fetching insane prices on Ebay.

Special collections

Companies and brands that have never released nail polish before (Topshop, American Apparel, Kate Spade, Calvin Klein, Tom Ford, Oscar de la Renta among others) have joined the bargain game.

Countless collaborations between nail polish brands, celebrities and fashion designers continue to be huge. Katy Perry, Nicki Minaj, Serena Williams and OPI; Justin Bieber, the Kardashians and Sparkle by OPI collections; Britney Johnson and Sephora by OPI; Alexander Wang, Prabal Gurung and Sally Hansen; Beth Ditto and Zoya—they're all involved together to bring new colors (and occasionally glitter) to your nails. The limited-edition nail polish collection that Thaleon Pantchgil created with NARS is one of the year's hottest and most anticipated releases.

Ti and meter-in-ins are hot as well. OPI came out with colors inspired by "Alice in Wonderland," "Burlesque," "The Muppets" and "Prive," and has upcoming sets inspired by "The Amazing Spider-Man" and Minnie Mouse. Chloe Glaze released the much-talked-about Hunger Games collection while Sephora by OPI came out with Glen-inspired shades including a blue one called "Hushed." Essie, Orly's Dark Shadows collection, which was based on the upcoming Tim Burton/Johnny Depp film, will also be available for purchase.

There has been an explosion of nail polish blogs and tweeps, and Instagram has been inundated with nail art tutorials. The nail industry continues to flourish with the birth of new brands, the return of old trends (cracks, magnetic) and the development of new ones (gel, polish-stripe and decals, caviar).

In the Philippines, collections are constantly and consistently roll out and nail polish fans welcome the arrival of new brands and collections with open arms.

"Nail polish is the fastest-growing segment of the beauty industry. My company's sales have gone up by 30 percent since the last 18 months due to nail polish sales," said Shelly Lazaro, president of Cybrexa Global Cosmetics, the official distributor of Sparkle nail to the Philippines.

She added, "People are using nail polish to express themselves in the most unique and creative ways. With a variety of shades to choose from, it satisfies our inherent desire to individualize and differentiate—an affordable luxury that is adding fun to our daily lives."

Flying off shelves

Dianna Rae Viola-Andrada, marketing manager at Sprint Asia, the official distributor of Orly in the country, said, "We felt the growth in the demand for nail polish two to three years ago and it's continuously increasing. We see how quickly Orly's nail lacquers roll out. Women like experimenting their nails with fresh nail color. A polished set of nails has become a fashion accessory."

Jovine Murillo, marketing communication manager of Ramon's Commercial, Parfumery and Toiletries Division, agrees. "Nail polish has become a fashion accessory as fashion statement. You can play with amazing colors—blue, green, yellow, black, orange. There's glitter, matte, nail art. You can do almost to be more daring."

Ramon's, which offers a number of prestige nail polish brands including Chanel, Dior, NARS, Lancôme and Estée Lauder, has witnessed the increase in demand for polish. Jovine said, "Customers come looking for new colors before they even arrive in the store. Our best-selling nail colors are Dipping all the shadows."

And why shouldn't they fly?

Nail polish is a fun and risk-free way of playing with trends. Peter Philips, creative director for Chanel Makeup, said to The New York Times, "Nail polish is just makeup. If it doesn't work out, you can wipe it off."

Nail polishing is the new lipstick. This has been echoed numerous times—by The New York Times, Time Magazine, many other publications, beauty brands and industry experts.

And it's a truth that is mirrored by my own life. I only wear lipstick when I go to weddings, but I feel naked when my nails are lacquer-free.

The author obsesses about nail polish on www.polishpolice.com.

Editor's picks

Want to know what's new? Here are some products perfect to accompany you this summer, from your home to your hair.

IF YOU'RE a girl on the go and don't want to keep reapplying lipstick, this is the product for you: MAC 24-hour long-wearing lipstick.

THE BEST thing you can add to your home this summer are Ambiance reed sticks. They make your home smell fresh, and they last long while also making you feel good. Available at Curry & Paper Plum Mall.

OLAY skin mask sensitive. Start while getting a bath with Olay moisturizing bars.

THE BODY Drop Body Butter Duo in Macadamia—Her only thing it smell amazing but it also comes in two different consistencies. The thicker formulation is for your elbows and knees, while less thicker skin.

NEED a refreshing eye shadow shade this summer? Clinique bi-annually assimilates 8 hour eye color to perfection that, 8-color shades are easy to apply and will instantly brighten your eyes.

FITS smart to suited products from Time to Time. Try Dove Damage Therapy hair care products, sold different variants depending on your hair type.

PROTECT your skin with L'Oreal UV Perfect SPF 30.

ANTHOLOGY suits that are seemingly comfortable and go with any summer attire. Available at Anthony Phone Plaza Mall and Shangri-La and The Fort in Bonifacio, Winona and Shangri-La.

Help your cosmetics . . .

From page G1

cally proven to combat skin damage from environmental aggressors, while improving skin tone, texture and elasticity.

I don't exactly know if it has affected my skin, but it's refreshing and makes my complexion feel clean even after I've been out the whole day and have become too tired to wash it. I also like spraying it on after I put on my makeup. It sets my makeup in a sort of a sheer, and he said it helps the makeup stay longer and not look like it is sitting on the skin.

Keeping the toning mist in the refrigerator makes it just more refreshing and perfect for this summer's heat. In fact, if you're not really into using too many products, I suggest keeping a spritzer of water and leaving it in the ref for you to spray on your face. If you want to pamper yourself more, add a lemon wedge. That should make it extremely refreshing.

HERBAL de Ibiza cologne

For all those who are using anti-aging products that contain vitamin C or vitamin serums (which I use), these products are really best kept in the refrigerator, because it helps the vitamin C from breaking down and makes applying the product more soothing.

I even put my cologne (Herbae de Ibiza and my kids' baby cologne Bonjela Andrea) in the ref. I think I'm the only one in the house who does this. I transferred their cologne in little containers that I got from Shop 'Ins, it keeps the smell longer.

Over the weekend, I will try and sort the interior for an inexpensive small refrigerator made to store beauty products. I'm sure I'll be able to find one that I can share with you. In the meantime, my three lipsticks will have to stay in the ref.

KIEHL'S Anti-toning mist

Once you're used to it, the experience of spraying chilled cologne is a whole new thing. I doubt I will ever use oil in room after the summer. Be mindful, the use is bad not only for our skin, but also for the beauty products we love.

JHP-ELP and BCMB Grants English Enhancement Program to Makati Public High School Students

The English Learning Program (ELP) of John Hubert Powers (JHP) and Rotary Club of Makati, Inc. (RMCI) once again partnered up to provide scholarships to Makati public high school students for the summer. This is the third and latest in a series of English Enhancement Programs that aim to equip high school and junior public school students with the four macro skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

ELP is a unique program that integrates Teacher-led Classes, Conversation Club classes, and English-to-Speak Immersion (ESP).

a. The Teacher-led class is the core program that focuses on developing mastery in the English language. It has lessons to generate parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, etc.) and comply sentence construction, thought organization, and other communication strategies. This is composed of a trigger Morning Segment, Inspirator, Library Inspiration, Intermediate Speaking Segment, and Advanced. Each stage is further subdivided into 3 levels.

b. The Conversation Club is the practical application of the Teacher-led classes. It focuses on enhancing the speaking skills of the students, as well as their discourse skills. The mission is to develop the students' fluency in speaking English.

c. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is composed of Creative Writing for Pre-teens and Teens and Business Writing for Young Adults and Executives.

Both JHP and RCMB believe that the training and discipline that this scholarship offers will give the students a chance to communicate more effectively. This could have accumulative improvements in their ability, confidence in expressing themselves, and excellence in their chosen fields.

Screening started last March 28, 2012. The 35-20 students that Chapter Makati have were sent to JHP on March 30, 2012 for assessment. The final list of volunteers and the program that they will take was released by April 2, 2012. Classes for the scholars started last April 16, 2012.

For inquiries on the scholarship Program, Ex-gah Program, call 893-3511 (John Hubert Powers Makati), 911-8401 (John Hubert Powers Quezon City), or 439-0002 (John Hubert Powers Alabang).

Treat stubborn body acne and minimize its scars

HI KELLY! I would like to ask for advice on how to improve the skin on my back. You see, I have uneven skin due to back acne when I was younger. And every season I will be skimpping a major event that will require me to wear a strapless gown. Help please! —Grandee C., Bermuda

Getting breakouts on your body is more common than you think. It happens to the best of us when our sebaceous glands produce too much sebum. As a result, our pores become blocked, dead skin accumulates around the hair follicles, and bacteria begin to develop. This leads to inflammation of the skin, causing pimples or back acne to occur. Treating "bacne" (back acne) with a body wash formulated with salicylic acid, along with applying a spot treatment on pimples will effectively treat it. (For severe cases, a trip to the dermatologist is your best option.)

While I'm glad you were able to overcome your bout with bacne, you will still have to deal with what it has left behind, like pimple scars and uneven skin tone. These are easily treatable with products, but sad to say it takes time to take effect. Depending on when your big event is, I should say a good three to four weeks of consistent treatment will significantly improve the condition of your back. There is no hard or fast way around it, but rest assured, you'll be able to wear any dress that will show off your smooth, even back after this. As always, I've listed down some easy tips for you to follow in order to quickly see results:

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Kelly Misa

Prevent future breakouts

The old adage, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," is the best way to attack your future problems and prevent it from coming back.

Whenever I get breakouts I break up on products with salicylic acid, as these effectively disinfect and exfoliate skin to prevent pimples in the future. You can find these at your local drugstores and department stores.

The skincare aisle carries many brands and gives us many options; simply read the label to check if it contains the ingredients.

Personally, I've loved Marie Rodes to Skin Care Acne Facial Cleanser quite good in minimizing pimples. Murad also has a good pimple-fighting range.

Other powerful pimple-zapping products contain ingredients Ultramin 41 or tea tree oil. Introducing these into your daily regimen will surely keep breakouts at bay and prevent bacne.

Look for products with AHAs, Alpha hydroxy acid has been one of the best-kept secrets for keeping skin clear and even. No doubt! Indeed it, but many of the popular skincare brands include it in their formulations, but in varying proportions.

Also known as glycolic acid, AHA and those products with it restore skin by sloughing away dead skin cells while improving the overall condition of the pore skin. These come in different forms: facial washes, face creams and pads. If you don't seem to find it in your everyday range of products, research your doctor about it.

Apple Vitamin C or Kojic Acid. In the past two weeks, I've had to endure covering up two stubborn pimple scars with concealer. I finally asked my derma for a solution and she handed me Melan-E Cream. It basically contains kojic acid, a powerful antioxidant that lightened the scars in two days. I had to apply on the dark area, which means just two tiny dots on my face. Many popular brands also carry effective pimple scar cremes. Just scan the ingredients to see if they contain Vitamin C or kojic acid.

Did a beauty question? E-mail askkellymisa@gmail.com

Skin brightening for various skin types

BECAUSE IT'S summer and it's when the sun is at its most oppressive, however much you slather yourself with sunblock or stay in the shade, you will get darker.

The ultimate goal for this season is to Lux evenly, more or faster and the most important thing: no sunscreen in front of Comaneci specs.

An entire skincare line takes care of your summer concerns: Step 1 is cleanser, Step 2, sunscreen/gel lotion, Step 3, serum. The most potent of the bunch; Step 4, a day cream, which is usually a high-SPF sunblock; and Step 5, night cream.

Those that do not have extreme flaws very potent astringent or issues with exfoliating and whitening ingredients.

Those bunch that skip creams have no one-hanners that cleanse, tone and exfoliate mildly. These I have tried and they provided whitening, especially noticeable upon waking up in the morning.

For oily to acne-prone skin, there's Neova Liquid Drug White Acne Control Foam with HY Boost, which can be alternated with Step Two Control Toner for daytime, SW Daytime Oil Control cream and SW Night Lotion.

For extra oily skin, you may try this Dermaxe Whitelfoliosol or French's Paradoxe White.

You may replace the Paradoxe white foam with Pure white deep cleansing facial foam.

The Forever Flawless whitening line requires just three steps: twice a day. It's especially helpful to those with lustrous marks and acne as the toner has an antibacterial exfoliants that dry up pimples, pool dead skin and fade brown spots.

For oily skin and for anti-aging, there's Swatergena Fine Fairness Line. It contains retinol which clears pigmentation and plumps up dry skin.

You may also try Caroline Marie de Paris, which contains actual crushed pearls which have minerals for healthy skin. It has light-reflecting properties, making skin glow.

The Body Shop Moisture White line is a godsend for those with very dry, damaged, dehydrated skin.

Not those with normal (combination) skin. Dame's Lancome Blanc Expert Melanolyne. The Dem Cristal version is Lancome's may good and designed to be used before the spot correctors, those these like White, or Olay Ultimate White.

Affordable to all skin types is Clinique's Whitening Even Better Clinical serum. It's very potent. Isolate, this bottle is sold worldwide – many one-second. The cleanser, serum/astringent has four variations, ranging from very dry, sensitive to acne-prone while the serum features two formulas...bottom for oily skin and cream for dry skin.

Tip: for those sunburned badly (minor damage control) with whitening facial masks like Smoke-protein's or Pure Beauty At night, or the treatment you get home, cleanse your skin, sweet face mask and leave on for half an hour at least.

Instead of tossing damp mask right away, wipe on neck and back of hands and do not wash off or rip until any other cream until the next day to make ingredients soak in.

E-mail kimyok@gmail.com.

MAKEOVER 911

Kimy Salas

CLINIQUE Even Better dark spot corrector

Decadent screen evokes Art Deco glamour

INSPIRATION: Jeanne Lanvin's carved and gilt metal screen, designed by Armand-Albert Rateau, circa 1931

HELENE Diamer's Decoration et Haute Couture would make a lovely addition to anyone's collection of coffee-table books.

GUCCI Garrison Minaudiere. Dazzling about this minaudiere. With the shiny gold chain-detailed strap and emerald-bead Swarovski-embellished clasp. Arabic PHP.

BURBERRY Prorsum's striped taffeta-woven skirt

By Brian Cunningham
Contributor

THE EXQUISITE pieces housed in Les Arts Decoratifs are any designer's dream. In particular the polished elegance of this carved and gilt bequeathed Art Deco screen caught my eye. Designed by Armand Albert Rateau for Jeanne Lanvin's Paris home, this threadbare piece harks back to a bygone era and makes me want to relive the glamour of the roaring 1920s. Get inspired and infuse to your look.

INSPIRED by New York's skyscrapers of the period, this Art Deco-inspired Gucci Spring 2012 dress with its dynamic contrast of black with gold and white will surely turn heads at any party.

CHRISTIAN Louboutin's Classic Pigalle Patent Pumps add instant shine and polish to any outfit.

NARS Silver Night Eye Shadow

YSL MASCARA Pulsion Effect Faux Cils in Burnt Bronze

CHANEL Black Satin Nail Lacquer

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INSIDE

■ Indie star Mercedes Cabral compares work in TV and movies /H4

Networks shakedown rocks industry

By Winston A. Machella
Contributor

MEDIA mogul Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman of the telecommunications conglomerate PLDT (Smart/Sun), wants to acquire control of television network GMA 7.

A limited prize offer still has to be worked out to bridge a P15-billion gap in owning the deal, but all major industry indicators—dropping profits, shifting consumer markets, rising costs, expensive new technology and cut-throat competition—are conspiring to make the buyout of GMA 7 irresistible, market analysts say.

"The major and controlling shareholders have not received a price that is acceptable to them," GMA Network president Gilberto Duavit Jr. said in a statement responding to media reports. "That is not to say that GMA 7 will not be sold, but at the moment we are presently not pursuing serious negotiations with the PLDT group because they have not offered us a price that is acceptable to our shareholders," Duavit said.

For weeks, the industry has been abuzz with reports that acquisition talks were on-the-way. But price matters most, and one has to read the nuanced signals correctly.

Industry indicators

Major indicators foreshadow a shakedown in the television industry.

Technology is changing to high-definition, requiring massive capital input. Industry profits are shrinking and the rules of the game are changing.

Two major players—ABS-CBN and GMA 7—are suffering double-digit percentage reductions in profits. Advertisers are cutting back on spending.

An aggressive new kid on the block, TV 5, is challenging industry rules and rewriting tried-and-tested formulas.

Channel 5 is on the prowl for an acquisition. And there is a company ready to sell for the right price.

Purported asking price

Last week, a source in Hong Kong-listed First Pacific Co. Ltd., of which Pangilinan is CEO and Managing Director, said that the "asking price" for GMA 7 was between P45 billion and P52 billion—an amount the Pangilinan group was said to be willing to pay.

But latest reports said the three families controlling GMA 7 want P60 billion for the company.

The closing price of GMA 7 at the Philippine Stock Exchange on April 25 was P9.55, a 300-percent stake in GMA 7 would cost around P52 billion, but it is necessary for buyers to pay a

(BYTHOMAS H)

Government set to order digitalization of TV shows, which means a dramatic cost increase in operations

GMA 7's Gilberto Duavit Jr.

TV5's Manuel V. Pangilinan

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3 BATTLESHIP
4 THE AVENGERS
5 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY

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3 THE LUCKY ONE / THE AVENGERS
4 BATTLESHIP
5 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY

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3 BATTLESHIP
4 THE LUCKY ONE
5 THE AVENGERS
6 THE AVENGERS

IMUS

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2 BATTLESHIP
3 THE AVENGERS
4 THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
5 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY
6 THE AVENGERS

TACLOBAN

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2 BATTLESHIP
3 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY
4 THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
5 THE AVENGERS

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE AVENGERS in Digital 3D
2 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY
3 THE AVENGERS

DUMAGUETE

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2 THE AVENGERS
3 BATTLESHIP / THE AVENGERS

BACOLOD

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2 REVENGE
3 THE AVENGERS
4 THE AVENGERS
5 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY
6 BATTLESHIP

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2 THE AVENGERS
3 THE AVENGERS
4 THE AVENGERS
5 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY
6 BATTLESHIP

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2 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY / BATTLESHIP
3 THE AVENGERS
4 THE AVENGERS

ANGELES

1 THE AVENGERS
2 BATTLESHIP
3 THE LUCKY ONE
4 THE AVENGERS

CALASIAO

1 THE AVENGERS
2 WOMEN I AND THE CRYING LADY / BATTLESHIP
3 THE AVENGERS Digital 3D
4 THE AVENGERS

'Princess and I' context not in sync with casting

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THIS appears to be the season for TV shows and films partly or mainly shot abroad. One of the most-overt examples: "Princess and I," set in a fictional Kinaboan country.

With only two episodes relevant to her, the viewer feels captivated by the unknown's primary venue, an Innsbruck-ish different from other shows' mundane locales.

In addition to its pristine and achingly lovely views, the show benefits enormously from having had the joint dope of choosing candid open-air galleries and other unlikely buildings, which endow its "script" every few unusually believable.

Credibility

But the generally positive first impression of the show is marred by the fact that despite the movie's exotic location, many of its actors are too true to appearance.

The lone exception is played by Albert Martinez, the only actor in a fictional Kinaboan family who has had a Christian Vasquez. Nino is the supporting cast member true.

Whatever happened to casting credibility?

Isn't there anyone who can play a royal who looks the part, that don't do a movie about a fictional Asian country with characters who look a different racial type.

There's more than just physical believability at stake here: such characters' lineage are coupled backstories, their gestures once, and if the impression they give is more Western than Asian, the entire series' contextual relevance is thrown out of whack.

Royal intrigue

In any case, as the story develops, we learn that the king and his Filipino-born Laura (palpably not have introduced illegal reforms than are welcomed by the grateful populace, but resented by Gretchen's character, the daughter of the monarch deposed many years earlier by the current king's father.

With suspicions on her mind, she has the monarchs' baby kidnapped and brought by a Filipino to the Philippines, where she ends up with an ordinary family. The story line to the kinds one is believe that it might take years for the princess to return to her father's kingdom, which in the interim, has been taken over by Gretchen. There is also the seeming possibility that Gretchen's son (Enrique Gil), might end up falling in love with the Philippine-raised princess (Kathryn Bernardo).

In the meantime, the princess' foster mother (a Manila dentist Tetchen) is reminded of the little girl her husband has adopted, as it's likely that the kid's given-up-for-dead mom wasn't the emotionally happy. Well, that's par for the course for a sorcery-become-revolutionaries saw!

It's great though to see the talented Tetchen make a comeback in a meaty role. The new show has enough plot points to satisfy its viewers and hopefully sufficient more plot-twists so its stories continues to unfold.

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2: THE AVENGERS
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS/BATTLESHIP
5: THE LUCKY ONE
6: THE AVENGERS (3D)
7: THE AVENGERS

GREENBELT 3

1: BATTLESHIP
2: THE AVENGERS

GREENBELT 5

1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE LUCKY ONE
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS (2D)
4: THE LUCKY ONE
5: THE AVENGERS

AYALA CENTER CEBU

5: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE LUCKY ONE
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS

MARQUEE

1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS
4: AMOKEN 3 / WRATH OF THE TITANS

MARKET! MARKET!

1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: BATTLESHIP
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS
6: THE AVENGERS
7: THE LUCKY ONE

TRINOMA

1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS/BATTLESHIP
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE LUCKY ONE
6: THE AVENGERS
7: THE AVENGERS

ABREEZA

1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE AVENGERS
3: THE AVENGERS
4: THE LUCKY ONE

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'TV acting can be impersonal'

In-demand indie star relishes the subtlety of movie portrayals

By Marinel R. Cruz

MERCEDES Cabral considers acting in the movies more fulfilling than television work because she finds the latter "more technical and less personal."

"I love film," Cabral, 25, told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent visit to her home in Pinas Pasay, Quezon City. "I tried TV only because I wanted to explore all aspects of acting. Yes, I get to shoot a piece of myself each TV audition-ess, but ... when I'm making a movie—I give my whole self."

Cabral admitted that she had a rough time working on ABS-CBN2 drama series "Hiyas" (2011). "Sa film, everything is magnified — the movements of the eyes, the slightest initiating of the lips. The (Hiyas) director said my acting was subdued and muted only for film. He wanted me to exaggerate."

She added: "Plus, in television work, you're always beating a deadline. It's normal to do 36 assignments in one day. You don't often get to study and become your character. There were times when I received my copy of the script the night before (taping) if Pino, it was not unusual for the creative team to change my lines or the last minute I needed to adjust to that, too."

It pays the bills

However, the actress said that while movies give her fulfillment, it's TV work that pays the bills. "Acting on indie scene just doesn't cut it. There's prestige in the fact that your projects are seen by an international audience, but ... you need money to live!"

Cabral is a graduate of Fine Arts, major in Sculpture, of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. Acclaimed film indie auteur Lav Diaz who also appeared in Brillante Mendoza's controversial independent film "Kinatay," which competed in the 2009 Cannes Film Festival in France. She has not stopped making indie movies since.

She consistently challenges herself as an actress by accepting off-beat roles. She played a sex-crazed woman in Irish Isbell's "Ligo Na U, Lapit Na Me" (2011), a zombie in the Visayan thriller "Tu Ingan Nato" (2011) by Jove Zaldarriaga and Brandon Relucio, and soon, a mentally challenged girl in Ramon Jose's "Ding Dong," scheduled for the 2012 Director's Fortnight in France this May.

Cabral said she almost turned down "Di Ingan Nato," an entry to the 2011 Cinema One Originals Film Festival, because it required her to speak Hiligay. "I'm not Visayan. It was hard for me to express emotions in a dialect that I didn't understand well," she pointed out. "I also had second thoughts because it's a zombie film. I hadn't seen a locally produced zombie movie that was able to pull it off. But I was impressed with the way Brandon used local stories for script."

"Ding Dong" won a Special Jury Prize at the 2011 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, but its director pulled out from the competition allegedly because of creative differences with producers.

"This is based on a true story," Cabral told Inquirer Entertainment. "I play the mother, a 32-year-old woman with the mind of a 6-year-old. I spent a week with her, learning how she walks, talks, cries and sees. I had to learn the dialect, even think like her."

It's not unusual for her to get attached to a role and bring it home. "My character in the Ronnie Ricketts film 'Cenizas' (Ashes)' affected me very much. I worked on the film for just two days, but I was in character for a whole week," the actress recounted. "She was hard to shake off. Some nights, I cried myself to sleep. I had to arrange a sightseer with friends just to shake off the impression."

Method acting

Cabral said she was like method acting. "It's a little risky," she said. "Luckily, I'm in this group called Actors' Playground, run by Dindi Bolalin Plata, which helps actors detach themselves from their characters."

Plata could be physically stressful, too, she said. "In an episode I did for Maalaala Mo Kaya,' where I played Marilin the Rosario's mother, there was a scene where I had a heart to heart talk with my son. The director specifically told me to contain my anger and not have a breakdown. We worked on that scene for a day as it was hard controlling myself, after the final shot, my tears flowed. I was surprised to see the assistant director and my real manager sobbing as well!"

She would like very much to play a deranged woman. "I find Edmond Mosset's character in 'Primal Fear' really interesting. Also Sesame Mareis character in 'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo' and Hans Gaer's in 'Final Attraction.' Masarap pagtaruan."

This is a job she is definitely thankful for, Cabral said. "Only actors get the chance to live different lives."

In July, she will be seen in the 2012 Cinemalaya entry "Nag-Iisang Sisiw" by director Shaintea Jamora. Meanwhile, she is working on another film by Mendoza, "Thy Womb," with Nora Aunor and Lotlot De Leon.

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AVENGERS 2D
AVENGERS
AVENGERS
Shangri-La Plaza

CHRISTIA, left, and Martha have left the popular TV competition ear

Networks...

From page H5

premium for acquisitions that give them control of their targeted companies.

At P90 billion, Bonifacio is willing to pay a premium of almost 50 percent to DMCI Holdings Inc.'s current market capitalization, but the controlling shareholder took a premium of 84 percent.

The conglomerate group has investments in several media companies and full ownership of television network TV-5. The PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, through its subsidiary Media Quest Holdings, also has minority interests in print media Business World, Philippine Star and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The right price

GMA 7 is controlled by the Duavit, Jimenez and Jimenez families. The Gozon group, represented by GMA chairman Felipe L. Gozon, had admitted in the past that the company would be sold for "the right price."

The sale of GMA 7 to the HLDF group nearly happened in 2003 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Duavit said negotiations had been reached on the price for a majority stake of the firm, but the deal fell through because of issues encountered by the buyer that were not related to price.

But conditions could be right this time around.

Income drop

GMA 7 recently announced that its 2011 net income plummeted 39 % to P1.72 billion from P2.82 billion in 2010, as advertisers cut back and spent on big events many up.

"The ad income took a beating," admitted Heraldo P. Murrill, GMA 7 vice president of finance. "We experienced the lowest ad income level of the past 5 years in the 4th quarter of 2011."

Advertising revenue dropped 6 percent to P12.08 billion, while operating costs jumped 8 percent to P8.08 billion launched DZSB News TV to blunt competitive inroads to news.

Ratings game

Duavit said competition pressures drove earnings.

"The spending was driven by the desire to win in the national ratings last year."

GMA 7 cited a 2.3-point lead in household audience share over rival ABS-CBN and an 18.6-point lead over newcomer TV 5, according to media savings firm Nielsen TV Audience Measurement.

Duavit rejected suggestions to emulate TV 5 by playing big talents in airtime slots advertisers. "The truth was that the stars created the programs and the network was interested in terms of who is more 'sure,'" he said.

"Mr. Jinkie is sure is the other way around—they sell the programs that make the stars and the network that creates the programs and the opportunities," he said.

Spending cuts

GMA 7 plans to reduce programming costs and trim capital expenditures by nearly P696 million in 2012, Murrill said.

Two new stations are planned for Davao and Bacolod regions. The rest of the funds will be to upgrade towards high definition programming.

Despite posting lower profits, rival ABS-CBN has set a higher budget for expansion this year to diversify its revenue streams and create new fares growth.

Last week, company officials reported that profits fell nearly a quarter in 2011, from a net of P2 billion in 2010 to P1.4 billion in 2011, following an industry-wide drop in earnings from massive spending cuts by big advertisers.

A one-time gain from the sale of a stake in Sky Cable Corp., executed with the company's more diversified revenue stream helped new ABS-CBN from a worse decline, officials said.

Uncertain outlook

The outlook for 2012, however, remains uncertain with an economy already at six-month lows (June months of the year.

"In January ad sources were down by double digits in February we saw some signs of recovery, but last March we had an all-time high for that month," ABS-CBN chief financial officer Rick Valdezco told reporters. "We hope to sustain this momentum the rest of the year."

Valdezco said the company might benefit from the small's real estate of the midterm campaign season by the fourth quarter of this year, "but it probably wouldn't be that much."

He said the group's capital expenditure would increase by at least 10 percent this year to P5 billion, with the bulk to be invested in the Internet and cable television business of its subsidiary, SkyCable.

Diversifying

To diversify its revenue streams, ABS-CBN has year launched a total of 16 films, six of which grossed more than P300 million each to crush "blockbuster" years by Philippine standards. "Feadway Sequence" grossed P642 million, making it the country's biggest-selling movie.

This year the group's interest plans is under television industry players to start broadcasting on digital frequencies and replace the existing inefficient and unreliable analog technology.

The National Telecommunications Commission is closely watching Japan's long-term service. Digital broadcasting and the second-generation Digital Video Broadcasting plan from Europe.

This station shift in the industry's business methods will benefit the big players at the expense of the smaller ones. It looks prudent for GMA 7 to start preparing while the price is right.

Fil-Am booted from 'Voice'

NEW YORK—Cherna of Team Gwen and Mathai of Team Adam were sent packing from "The Voice" Tuesday night as the popular TV singing contest narrows its competition ahead of next month's finals.

Cherna, a Fil-Am choir family member in Lusaniya) received an embrace from her coach, Gwen Stefani, as the show's results began to fill. While all four coaches on the show were impressed by Cherna's Monday night performance of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing," they crossed her Tuesday night rendition of "Already Gone" as pitchy despite the energy Stefani

Samuel Jackson predicts 'some controversy' when Tarantino's 'Django' is released

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca V. Nepomuceno

The A-list actor talks candidly about racism in Hollywood and the gradual breakdown of the color barrier in the world of film

LOS ANGELES—Samuel Jackson predicted that "Django Unchained," which reunites him with director Quentin Tarantino, may stir "some amount of controversy." The line might come from Quentin's take on racism and slavery in the revenge film, which is set two years before the US Civil War.

In our recent interview, Samuel also talked about his current film, "The Avengers," where he plays Nick Fury, the director of a peacekeeping organization that assembles superheroes such as Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, and Captain America when Earth is threatened by an alien invasion.

Samuel dished out on his growing up years and the strides black actors have made in Hollywood, and made teasing remarks about fellow actor Morgan Freeman. Below are excerpts from our chat:

Talk to us about "Django Unchained."

I've known about this film for a very long time. I'm sorry I'm not 10 years younger so I could be Django. (Jamie Foxx has the role.) But (laughs) just how it is. But I have a good part. And it's always great to be on a Quentin Tarantino film set. It's exciting, laugh-filled, and full of discovery.

It's just great to be back there and to have that kind of... I won't say controversial, but very interesting dialogue about a very real subject that will probably be... (laughs) I don't know. I'm sure there will be some amount of controversy when the film is released.

What is it like to work again with Quentin Tarantino?

Quentin and I are friends. We communicate through text, phone, and films. He'll send me a film, I'll send him a film. We laugh about things.

And just being in the same town (LA)... I'm still back in screenings every week—something old, new, or very unusual. Recently we saw "The Road: Redemption," a film out in Indonesia. It was very good. The week before that, we saw "Billy Jack." And before that, "Brotherhood of Blood." We still do all that stuff.

Your character in "The Avengers" has to temper the egos of the people that he assembles. You've been on film sets with other personalities. Do you have to temper your ego, too?

I try to lead by example. I show up on time. I know my lines. I hit my marks. I talk to the grips, the camera crew, and the people at craft services. I try to treat everybody as important. We can't get our work done unless they get their work done. We all need to be on the same page. We have to have harmonious relationships. I like movie sets. They should be fun. I try and let the other actors we have (interact with all the people who are around. Then I hope they follow that example.

How active are you in espousing causes?

I use my voice in my own way. I have a problem with actors spouting their opinions all the time. It's just one person's opinion. It shouldn't sway somebody else. I don't want to impose my will on somebody by saying, "I believe in this; I believe in that." I do what I am behind the scenes. Or, on the edges, of what needs to be done. I try to do my part. If I go somewhere to do some charitable work, I don't take a film crew with me so I can prove it. It's enough for me to know that I did it. I don't need anybody else to know.

Did your have motivations when you were a kid?

I had a strong family. They motivated me in various ways. This was way before a kid could pick up the phone, call the police or whomever and say, "They hit me." It was part of growing up. Discipline was discipline. I understood that my parents had certain expectations. They told my teachers that I was supposed to achieve certain grade levels. I was supposed to study.

My job was to be the best person I could be in terms of getting my education and getting out of the situation I was in. I grew up in a lower income family. They expected me to go to college and do all the things that I needed to do. I understood that. Sometimes I had to be motivated. They motivated me in whatever way they could. Sometimes it was through punishment; sometimes through reinforcement.

I learned the hierarchy of who was in charge early in my life. So I didn't fight authority until I got to be a young adult and understood that there were other ways that I could use my voice, my will. But until then, my family were the people whom I wanted to impress. They were the people who took care of me. I wanted them to be proud of me. I didn't want to do anything to embarrass them. They emphasized that to me through hugs, kisses, and sometimes slaps (laughs).

JACKSON with Chris Evans (as Captain America) in "The Avengers"

How do you think an alien looks like?

I don't have a clue. I've watched horror movies all my life. There have been so many incarnations of aliens—big eyes and tentacles, primitive heads, in-between heads, with green polka dots, or in stripes, until George Lucas came along with "Star Wars." I'm not one of those people who don't believe there's something else out there. We're here. Why wouldn't there be something else out there?

I totally think that we're not the only life in the universe. But I'm not that anxious to run into it. I've driven on lonely highways in New Mexico and seen things zipping across the sky. I hoped that they didn't step over my car and turn on their lights! I'm not sure what aliens look like but I do believe they're out there.

What do you love about your job?

The fact that I get a chance to get up and create something new every day. That I get to explore a condition of the human existence that is not normally mine. That it gives me a chance, every now and then, to do things Quentin's films, to explore the history of something that went on. That's very real and palpable. Painters get up and paint every day. Writers get up and write.

I don't understand the actor who does one movie a year. Last year, when I wasn't around, I still did four movies. I did a Broadway play, which was great. I like acting. It's amazing that I have a job where I am part of the creative process and can entertain people at the same time.

What drives you?

The need to create. I can't paint. I don't do pictures that last forever. I can't face the blank page every day because it's daunting. But I have an love of going out in front of people and making them laugh, cry, sigh, or scream. Allowing people to get away from their everyday lives—even if it's only an hour and a half—and to take their minds off what bothers them is invaluable not just to them but to me.

Can you talk about the challenges of being black in Hollywood? Morgan Freeman told us the color of his skin impeded him in the early stages of his career.

The early stages of his career? He was already old. What are you talking about? That was his biggest impediment? What can we get this old dude to do? How much can he do? Can he kiss the girl? Yes, he's too old to kiss the girl. I mean, I'm just (that...

When I came to Hollywood, I was on the edge of that. I was over 40. You know it's one of those weird kind of questions that I was asked in somewhere like Germany. Somebody would go, "Whoa, (you, Morgan, Denzel (Washington), and Larry (Laurence Fishburne) get together, what do you talk about?" We don't have black meetings! And there are other black actors in Hollywood. There's a lot in fact. It's kind of hard to get all of us together in one place because we're so many.

The fact is that there are writers, directors, and producers...and everybody else that went to school with a diverse ethnic group of people...and they are the world in a totally different way from how the old filmmakers used to see it—if you had lowered, cops, and doctors, they were all white people. If you had criminals, they were black, Hispanic, or whatever. That's sort of changed. There's a whole big ethnic group of people that work in this business and people make money off them.

There are some really great films directors that have made tons of money for various people. You don't think of their ethnic origins. You think of them as filmmakers, actors, or whatever they are. There are more opportunities for actors of color to work, even in terms of directing, writing, and producing. We're part of everywhere now. So you open the door, and you see us everywhere. That's what happens. That was the old guard's fear and it was realized. We're here to stay!

Email the columnist at rvnepomuceno_TEMPO@yahoo.com. Follow him at http://twitter.com/rvnepomuceno.

"I LEAD by example. I show up on time. I know my lines. I hit my marks."

Shopping Alley

A LIFESTYLE GUIDE

Supplement Head Jong Amano

FitFlop unveils new edgier line of footwear

HAVING proven itself as being more than just a fleeting trend, FitFlop is gaining a loyal—and growing—following especially here in the Philippines. Just in time for the summer season, FitFlop Philippines will be launching its latest collection, aptly called the Trend Diffuser, a more fashion forward take on what is now considered a classic style of footwear.

SANDRA Sofia's sporting her FitFlop Electra in Coral

FitFlop's new collection showcases edgier styles than are evident for fashion forward women who want to step out in style. Elevating the brand's style appeal, the "Trend Diffuser" line is comprised of hand-crafted ballerinas, luxury leather sneakers and sporty luxe sandals which gives high-heel addicts a more empowering option.

FitFlop introduced its latest line to the country's most discerning fashionistas and trend-setters at the Makati Shangri-La's Rizal Ballroom last April 19. Trend Diffuser 2012 promises to be a must coveted collection, and will make to mark on the fashion world as yet another innovation by FitFlop.

Top fashion magazine editors and bloggers, hand-selected to attend this event, with special surprises in stored for them the moment they arrived at the venue. Guests were then gathered for a formal, sit-down dinner in the black-and-white-themed Shangri-La ball-room.

Attendees had the first glimpse of the Trend Diffuser collection, which will only be available at FitFlop boutiques through pre-ordering starting May 10. As the night continued, these pieces made their way down the runway, their various styles and colors bold against the muted backdrop of the event.

Going through several photos, the Trend Diffuser line brings forth something fresh and exciting for FitFlop fans as it carries footwear styles that continue to attract the eye, check these out for your own taste of FitFlop's latest.

FITFLOP-E

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Happy sneakers and sandals

MAKE your last bid pampered than bad to use. Happy Feet sneakers with triple layer comfort soles make sure the summer season with Happy Feet Style 2013 beautiful sneakers. Available in bold stripes of white, blue and red, it's the perfect way to pull together a summer outfit that will surely make everyone go ooo this summer.

Happy feet sandals, on the other hand, have therapeutic properties. To maximize its effectiveness, cushioned, rubber-like heel cup in these sandals properly. To do this, Happy Feet recommends using your toes.

A Happy Feet finished has three key components critical to customized comfort: the toe grip, the arch support, and the heel cup. The arch support can be found in the middle part of the footbed, while the heel cup is a slight depression towards the end of the sandal. These are the footbed's passive components which only require you to step on them and they will do the rest of the work.

The toe grip, on the other hand, is an active component which requires you to move them and they will do the rest of the work.

This toe grip, on the other hand, is an active component which requires you to move them and they will do the rest of the work.

The Toe Happy Feet foot bed parts work to give your feet that contoured comfort and special support it needs, so that when your feet turn 40 years old, they can still dance the cha-cha.

How cool is that? Your feet will stay pretty and healthy and not to mention, happy, with Happy Feet.

Happy Feet Sandals are available at its store located at Ebenezer's, Robinsons Galleria, Festival Supermall and in key cities nationwide. You can also find them at selected SM Department Stores or Toby's Sports Stores. For more information and store locations, visit their website at happyfeetsandals.com or facebook page facebook.com/happyfeetsandals.

Outsmart thieves with Pacsafe gear and accessories

WHETHER you are in the dazzling beach-ward Boracay and Puerto Galera or in the cool peaks of the Banaue Rice Terraces or Baguio, travel (or crowds) is fill those popular tourist hot spots.

But to deter your excitement though, one of the people you may encounter in the street or in a crowd would be a pickpocket out to pry his hands on your belongings, like your passport, wallet, or expensive electronic gadgets such as the iPad.

One of the best ways to protect your valuables and secure yourself of a hassle-free summer vacation is by getting Pacsafe bags and accessories, the smartest and most reliable companion on your travels.

Pacsafe's range of travel and urban backpacks, shoulder bags, bag guards, purses and various travel gear have a built-in anti-theft technology that prevents thieves from slashing, snatching and running off with your bag.

Pacsafe's latest edition of bags and travel gear are not only stylish and chic, they are also equipped with Smart Zipper, a security feature unique to the brand designed to protect your essentials through theft-proof zipper locks and clips.

It makes it difficult for even the crafty-est and most cunning sticky fingers to pry open your bags and slither in to fish out your most important stuff like credit cards and mobile phones.

Hidden from view, pickpockets will have a hard time figuring out how to open or look for an opening. The Smart Zipper is also ornately somehow to open as if they are pulled, the bag won't just slide open. So even before the thief finds his way into your bag, you will have alerted yourself or others. Whether you are shopping for souvenirs and pasalubong in Bohol or Davao, or visiting historic churches and villages in Bohol and Vigan, you can rest assured your peace of mind with Pacsafe's Metrosafe 100 daypack or hip and shoulder bag.

Also, take that hike at Bagnda or ride that zipline in Davao or Cagayan de Oro with the Slingsafe 125 backpack or sling purse and hip pouch.

Afraid that rain ruins the hand you're booked in a not safe enough to entrust your valuables? Then take them with you with your Citysafe 450 backpack or purse as you say both business and pleasure, be it in bustling metropolitan Manila or the Queen City of the South, Cebu.

Free yourself of the apprehension as you live the experience of being in the country's loveliest destinations and creating good memories whether with loved ones or by yourself. You don't want to destroy your vacation only because of an unreliable bag. With Pacsafe bags and travel gear, traveling means no worries for the rest of summer or even the rest of the year.

Pacsafe travel gear and accessories are available in most major department stores like Rustan's, SM and Robinsons and at all Travel Club and StarMall stores nationwide. Search on Facebook (Pacsafe Philippines) or contact United Cotton International Trading Corp. at 922-0981 or (0922) 813-8152.

Pacsafe bags are also available at Apple Corner, W Surfer, Fashion Rack, Stylus, Duty Free, Landmark, Le Boutique, Urban Athletics, Bandpoof Inns, Tripology, BDE and Habra.

Going comfortably confident with Hanes Intimates

HANES Intimates is the newest bra collection ready to relive women's underwear woes. Designed with specific purposes in mind, the innovative line provides women with their own 'perfect' bra with the right fit.

Hanes Intimates' five difference collection are: "Concealing Petals," "All-Over Comfort Bra with Comfortlift Straps," "Invisible Look," "Lightly-Lined Push Up Bra" and, the "Microfiber Spandex."

The Bold Concealers give a smooth, flawless finish under fitted tops and lightweight fabrics. This collection comes in either in classic nude or black, and has three types: Beautiful Comfort with Concealing Petals Wire-Free Bra, Beautiful Comfort with Concealing Petals Underwire Bra and Concealing Petals Comfy Strapless Bra.

For those who prioritize comfort, the silky microfiber material offers the best comfortable fit. The Comfortlift straps add firm yet gentle support yet prevents digging in while assuring no slipping, no poking, and no rubbing. This collection comes in two types: All-Over Comfort Wire-Free Bra and All-Over Comfort Underwire Bra. The collection comes in classic nude and black colors.

The flat straps and continuous construction of the Invisible Look collection gives that invisible look-feel and it is made of soft, breathable fabric (93 percent nylon, 33 percent spandex). It comes as contoured halves and supports the breasts to avoid spillage.

The Quick Change straps offer easy adjustability in criss-crossing. The Invisible Look collection comes in: Underwire Bra and Fuller Wire-Free Bra. The collection comes in dainty Soft Shape and Flirty Pink colors.

The Lightly-Lined Push Up Bra collection is molded and contoured with underwire cups that shape and support the breasts with all-over, small-bra, light-foam padding that allows subtle cleavage enhancement, making it the perfect t-shirt bra.

The seamless, semi-rigid contour cups enable modesty while the underwire provides support. This also features a low plunge center front with plush center gore to accommodate lower necklines. The cup linings are in a contrast color for a fun touch and the seamless sides provide a smooth look under clothes. The Lightly-Lined Push Up Bra comes in nude and black colors.

The sporty comfy and roomy Hanes Microfiber Spandex collection has a super sleek stretch knit designed to minimize breast movement and sweating. Its fabric technology keeps the body dry by wicking moisture from the skin, and a breathable mesh-covered keyhole allows ventilation. The covered elastic bottom band supports and comforts. Physical activities are now worry-free!

FitFlop unveils new edgier line of footwear

Pumpage C1

Uno

Get in line, ladies. You may just want 'uno in every color' of FitFlop's new wear, chic, strap-on Uno slipon. This ballerina-style shoe with a hidden wedge adds a bit of height, making your legs look unbelievably graceful. It's definitely a gorgeous wardrobe basic not just for shoe lovers but for any fashionista as it has chic boot built with the brand's new ultra-slim Biomimetic style density midsole removing comfort and toning benefits that FitFlop is famous for.

Uno sneaker

Also part of the brand's new slim line is this luxury lace-up, called the Uno sneaker. Handcrafted in leather footbed complete with tailored facings, a contrast strap, and, again, with FitFlop's new, ultra-slim Biomimetic style density midsole added inside.

Gladda

This ball sneaker, half-on-our corner has strong facings, voluminal construction, soft, supple leather uncapping, and a cool, gel ankle collar making it the sneaker have sexy sandals especially for the summer season. To ensure that you get more than style benefits, the Gladda has also been built on the brand's patent-pending, ergonomically-engineered Microsuede-board midsole proving that comfortable can also mix high in the style-o-meter.

The evening's fashion show also acted as a tribute to FitFlop fans, as professional models on the runway were joined by three extraordinary women, who are dedicated to the FitFlop mission to "Wear the Shoes, Rule the World."

Jessica Javellana-Sy is passionate about designing and making her own clothes, while being the best wife and mother she can possibly be. For her, having a family as a young age shouldn't stop anyone from achieving personal dreams. She credits her family's support as the drive to even launch her very own clothing line.

When it comes to being an avid FitFlop fan, Cristina Guanzon certainly raises the bar—by owning 50 unique pairs. Aside from a great interest in FitFlop, Cristina is a full-time entrepreneur and mother who also loves traveling and photography.

Price-spirited, but passionate and driven, Tammy Cruz truly personifies FitFlop as its brand associate. It is her happy, stress-free attitude which allows her to go beyond the call of duty, and make multi-tasking a breeze. When not at work, Tammy enjoys late-night jogging with friends and having a good massage.

Denise Quizon keeps her days busy as a banking entrepreneur and mother. What Denise isn't hard at work, she posts on a pair of FitFlops as she engages in her favorite leisurely activities: practicing yoga and going to the movies.

Michelline Tan is a devoted mother to her son and a loving wife to her husband. Aside from fulfilling her roles at home, she also helps out in running their business. An adventurous and outgoing, Michelline loves travelling and spending time with family and friends. When not at work, she enjoys cooking and baking.

Having been unveiled through the brand's first summer soiree, the new line of high-style FitFlop footwear for the ladies has been very well received making it the footwear styles to watch out for this season.

This collection will only be available at FitFlop stores in SM Mall of Asia, Megamall, North Edsa (Annex), Southmall and Cebu through pre-ordering, starting May 10.

For more on FitFlop Philippines and its latest Fitfluer line check out: www.facebook.com/fitflopphilippines. FitFlop fans may also get the latest updates on the brand through Twitter: @fitflopPH.

In the Philippines, FitFlop is exclusively distributed by the Primer Group of Companies.

Class B refs, aircons at Summer Warehouse Sale

THE ANNUAL SM Warehouse Sale is back and bigger than before, featuring quality and stylish home appliances at bargain prices.

Throughout the years, SM, an industry leader in appliance innovations, has become a household name through the presence of SM Refrigerators in the Filipino kitchen. With its spacious interior, stylish design and high-technology cooling system, SM Refrigerators have certainly become a must-have in every home. You can now complete your kitchen by owning these SM Refrigerators at great discounts of up to 50 percent. SM Refrigerators normally priced at over P10,000 can now be purchased at half the price or roughly P10,000. Truly the best bargain of the season. Entry-level SM refs are also available from 20 up to 40 percent off.

Aside from refrigerators, SM has also established its name in air-conditioning, gaining much notoriety with its durable and reliable window and split-types. Like the refs, these reliable cooling gadgets are available at greatly reduced prices in the sale.

So what are you waiting for? Get your SM refrigerators and aircons now when it's hot and you need it the most. Price points range beyond P20 mark and across. Buy also includes freezers, washing machines, microwave ovens and water dispensers. The discounts are given since they are Class B appliances meaning these were display appliances with slight imperfections such as minor scratches, slight dents, torn packaging, no boxes, etc. Nevertheless, they are first-hand and in perfect working condition.

For variety, other appliances from other brands are also available. Investment-ing cookers, built-in hobs, built-in ovens, range hoods, mini freezers, wash-ing machines, microwave ovens and water dispensers. The discounts are given since they are Class B appliances meaning these were display appliances with slight imperfections such as minor scratches, slight dents, torn packaging, no boxes, etc. Nevertheless, they are first-hand and in perfect working condition.

The warehouse sale is at official display CVA Industries' main office at #100 Mercedes Ave., Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City. For more information on the Warehouse Sale, contact CVA Industries at +632-643 3668.

MORE THAN JUST YOUR EVERYDAY SANDALS

STEP INTO STYLE AND COMFORT WITH SANUK'S BESTSELLING RANGE OF YOGA MAT SANDALS.

A fashion trends come and go, it takes a lot for a product to weigh heavily in the consciousness of consumers. Take for example the boom of the flip flop trend wherein there's been a mushrooming of flip flop styles all over the world. From heavily embellished ones to eyeballers to wedges, flip flops now come in all sorts of colors, styles, sizes, and heights but what makes Sanuk's bestselling Yoga Mat collection of sandals a classic, is that it offers the market something more than just the typical pair of flip flops through its enduring style and comfort factor.

Boasting of a functional yoga mat foot bed, Sanuk's yoga mat sandals are truly a joy to wear no matter where you're headed especially this summer season. Take it to the mall, the beach, even for a quick coffee run. Sanuk's Yoga Mat sandals seamlessly combine comfort with its "season less" style. Complemented by classic styles and colors, these yoga mat sandals can outlast fleeting fashion trends and make for a practical choice for no-nonsense individuals who want more bang for their buck.

Pair it with shorts, pants, a dress, even with rompers, Sanuk's Yoga Mat sandals make dressing up especially during hot days, a breeze. High quality and in style, these classic sandals are definite must-haves for any practical fashionista's wardrobe not just during the summer season but for all 365 days of the year.

Make sure to check out Sanuk's new styles of Yoga Mat sandals at a branch near you.

Get the latest on Sanuk Philippines by "liking" their Facebook fan page at: Sanuk Philippines or visit www.sanuk.ph. Sanuk is exclusively distributed by the Primer Group of Companies. For more information about Primer Group of Companies, visit www.primergrp.com.

Many were called but few were chosen:

Sledgers celebrates society's crème de la crème.

Known for its classy line of men's footwear, French brand Sledgers has been able to successfully combine comfort, style, and class suited for every gentleman on the move. As it continues to deliver exciting yet always effortlessly sophisticated styles for the dapper gent, Sledgers held a special event at Opus Lounge in Resorts World Manila, aptly called "A Night for the Gents".

Have a cool vacation with the Victorinox Summer Companion promo

TAKE advantage of this summer vacation to bond with family and friends. Go on a hike or rough it out by camping in the wilderness. Don't forget to bring your reliable Victorinox Swiss Army knife which is an indispensable companion during nature trips.

Legendary Swiss Knives brand Victorinox will make your summer even more fun with the Victorinox Summer Companion promo. A minimum single purchase worth P1,300 of Victorinox pocket knife already entitles the buyer to one Bicycle standard deck for free. With Victorinox pocket knives and a deck of Bicycle cards on hand, summer vacation becomes more exciting and truly memorable!

Victorinox was founded by Swiss cutler and entrepreneur Karl Elsener in 1884. His business started supplying the Swiss Army soldiers with knives in 1891. The company has been providing the world with functional and high-quality products for 125 years. The Victorinox line of pocket knives consists of handy multi-purpose tools that bear the hallmark of Swiss precision and craftsmanship. The products continuously evolve to meet the demands of the modern market while preserving its traditions and original virtues, acclaimed for its functionality, user friendliness and quality. Victorinox Swiss Army Knives are indeed the perfect, useful companion for everybody.

Promo period is until May 31. The participating Victorinox stores are: Cutting Edge (second to 2nd Level, Trinoma; 2nd Floor Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Upper Ground (G) Bldg. A, SM Megamall; 3rd Flr. Greenbelt 3; Level 4, Eastwood Mall; Level 4 Festival Supermall, Filipino LA Hemlock; Kitchen Pro; National Bookstore; Habi-outlet; Victorinox Outlets; BOE; and SM Dept. Store and Boatcom Dept. Store Global.

Victorinox is exclusively distributed by Caterpillars Corp. For inquiries, you may call Ronie Tibar at tel. no. 364-6041 local 782 or 706.

ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET LAUNCHES LIVING WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

SHOPPERS can now live in wellness everyday with Robinsons Supermarket's holistic campaign entitled 'Living Wellness. The campaign, which includes Living in Beauty, Living a Happy Home and Living Good, allows people to have a better, well-rounded lifestyle through education and in-store experiences in different Robinsons supermarkets nationwide. Living Wellness also shares wellness in the workplace in partnership with 'World Vision. Present during the launch of the Living Wellness campaign were [from top left] 'World Vision associate director Jun Escalores and Robinsons Supermarket general manager Jude Eladia; and [from bottom left] 'World Vision executive director Ebora Balois. Rosario Ilao, Robinsons Retail Group senior vice president and group general manager Roberto Galicinao Pe, another vice president for operations, Ronnie Ong.

The refrigerator that most households trust
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*Reader's Digest Philippines Trusted Brand survey, 2011

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ABC No. 1308100318

PLY Shades Tropez

Frolic under the sun with perfect eye shades

WITH the scorching heat, it's a good thing there's Fly Shades to get you covered with its trendy and sun-perfect summer 2012 collection. With its laid-back vibe combined with colorful tints, summer becomes more enjoyable in a fun and stylish way. As an added bonus, Fly Shades has UV protection to make the fresh outdoor air even sweeter.

Trendy men and women will find Baker (P3200), Cordoba (P2995), Ecija (P3200) and Jumilla (P3400) just right for a daytime with along the shores or even in the sunny streets. Men can channel their inner John Lennon with Oslo (P3200), while Stag by (P3200) evokes more of the musical history—perfect to date with beach shoots or swimming trunks.

Here things up and look cool and smooth with Sicily (P3400), Tropez (P3400) and Vigo (P3200). The fresh and "chill" look of these eyewear make you look hot while shielding your eyes from the sun's excess and bright rays.

"This is the perfect time to wear the Fly Shades newest collection. Not only is it colorful and trendy, it will also help shield the heat brought by the intense sun. Perfect for beach outings and those out-of-town trips," Ellie Tan, Fly Shades chief operations officer, said.

Protect yourself with UV protection! Fly Shades this summer. Check out the Fly Shades summer 2012 collection at Harbor Point Subic this March 15 and SM Dasmariñas April and other branches: Alabang Town Center, CSI The City Mall, Festival Supermall, Magic Mall, Malabon Citimpace, Market!Market!, Metropolis Mall, SM Pavilia Mall, Trops Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Manila, SM Baguio, SM Batangas, SM Calamba, SM Cebu, SM Clark, SM Dasmariñas, SM Marikina, SM Lipa, SM Lucena, SM Manila, SM Mankilam, SM Marilao, SM Naga, SM North Edsa, SM Novaliches, SM Pampanga, SM Rosales, SM San Lazaro, SM Sta. Rosa, SM Sucat, SM Taytay, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM Modeo, SM Sharidrops, SM Valenzuela, Sta. Lucia East and Trinoma. For the latest news and updates on Fly Shades, like Love Eyeshades on Facebook.

Now, as low as P1.59 per gallon with an under-the-sink personal water station

DO YOU call your POU for every five gallons of drinking water? Do you suddenly run out of bottled water at the most inconvenient times? Or you still have to negotiate conflicting schedules when ordering? Or wastes a lot kitchen storage space for storing somany of those unsightly plastic bottles?

Well, more and more people are discovering that there is a more practical, economical and earth-friendly way to get drinking water. In addition, since summer is here, it's now even more important that all those hard-to-carry but abundant water for the family to avoid dehydration and illnesses.

GE recently introduced its entry-level home filtration system. The latest Quick Change series boasts of an unprecedented P1.59 per gallon outstanding, way lower than the P35 per five gallon bottled when you order bottled water. It can fit right under the kitchen sink and replace tap, or through the tap fixture you can find in part of the package. A plumber or a DIY do-it-yourself install it in no less than 15 minutes, according to NAWASA water pressure and use. Therefore run without any electricity.

GE boasts that its system is independently certified by no less than the US National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to remove particulates and cysts and chemicals as a reserve. Check the four-stage, the 1258—1750 for instance, removes dangerous contaminants such as giardia lamblia, cryptosporidium parvum, and e. coli among others. GE's universal variant called the GXRP 2000 with fiber-lead and volatile organic compounds. However, essential minerals good for health are left intact, unlike other water processes where it's removed such minerals are removed.

As a bonus, there is absolutely no water wastage. Maximum clarity, the taste and odor of the water is also greatly improved as the chlorine and other odor-causing organisms are filtered out.

GE's innovative design system is a smaller than other system that saves valuable kitchen counter space and keeps the kitchen looking uncluttered and elegant with none of the unsightly connections in full view of visitors. If you think about it, it's like having a concealed water station in your own kitchen, much like having your private home theater system. It's positively beautiful, why take the bother to travel to your home, spend money and waste gasoline when it's right there coming through your faucet anytime you want? You would never run out of drinking water. Oftentimes, delivery schedules are not in sync with yours which can be very stressful. And never noted this happens in the heat of summer!

No, who wants extra space, more maintenance? Five-five gallon bottles would normally take up 1 sq m of storage space. Plus, you remodel also enhance security because you reduce the number of strangers entering your home to deliver water.

The benefits are almost innumerable, one can't help but guess that with all of these benefits, the price must be very expensive. Well, consider that with the GXRP 1500 rated to run of P3,999 and capacity of 2,500 gallons or an monthly (whichever comes first), five gallons of drinking water from the GXR—1500 could come for as P1.59/bottle of the usual P35.00 for every five gallons of bottled water. That's as much as 77 percent savings while going green!

Look for the GE Quick Change series at selected Ace Hardware, Handyman and True Value stores. Also available at Ansen's Appliance. Troy Tran, Water+Marketing, Hospanas and S&P stores. Call 631-0202 or 631-1041 for more details. You may also check out the GE Water Systems fan page on Facebook. Search "GE Water Systems". Water Systems by GE are distributed by CW Industries, an exclusive distributor of GE Appliances.

A personal water station right under your sink: GE's Water Division Water Systems require no electricity and operates on existing water pressure. No more deliveries every 5 or 6 weeks.

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CLASSIFIEDS
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FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS

LOST & FOUND

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CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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CAR LOAN

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PETS

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M.H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-4640 / 526-0131 local 2600 / Telefax No. 522-4640

INVITATION TO BID

ITEMS	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Non-Refundable Fee	Delivery Period
[TRIBAL-2012-L-006] Procurement of Courier Services for LANDBANK Head Office, Metro Manila Branches, Provincial Branches, Extension Offices/Sub-offices and Foreign Offices/Representative Offices/Remittance Offices	Php 30,000,000.00	Php 10,000.00	Two (2) Years
[TRIBAL-2012-L-007] Supply and Delivery of the following Office Supplies: • Lot 1 - 2,000 Pcs. Ribbon for IBM Wheelwriter Personal Printer, Original • Lot 2 - 12,000 Pcs. Cheque Protector Ribbon for Epson Protector Printer Model PC-2100, Original • Lot 3 - 3,000 Pcs. Ribbon for Epson Printer Model LQ-2090, Original • Lot 4 - 1,000 Pcs. Ribbon for Epson Printer Model LQ-2090, Original	Php 2,250,000.00 600,000.00 300,000.00 150,000.00	Php 2,500.00 500.00 500.00 500.00	Staggered deliveries
[TRIBAL-2012-L-008] Printing and Delivery of the following Landbank Forms: • Lot 1 - 11,400 Bdle. PHP Tax Deposit Slip • Lot 2 - 17,400 Bdle. Cash Deposit Slip • Lot 3 - 13,410 Bdle. Check Deposit Slip • Lot 4 - 120,000 Bdle. Check Endorsement and Specimen Signature Card for Individual Customer (Detached Form) • Lot 5 - 280 Pcs. Letterhead (Manual) • Lot 6 - 280 Pcs. Letterhead (Carbon) • Lot 7 - 280 Pcs. Mailing Envelope (Manual) • Lot 8 - 280 Pcs. Letterhead Tab	Php 1,900,000.00 1,470,000.00 978,900.00 748,200.00 336,000.00 280,000.00 140,000.00 112,000.00	Php 1,000.00 500.00 500.00 500.00 500.00 500.00 500.00 500.00	Staggered deliveries
[TRIBAL-2012-L-009] Annual Vehicle Insurance for the following LANDBANK Branches and Offices: • Lot 1 - National Capital Region (NCR) • Lot 2 - Provincial Area Group (PAG) • Lot 3 - Northern and Central Luzon, Calabarzon Group (NCLC) • Lot 4 - Visayas Branches Group (VBG) • Lot 5 - Southern Luzon Branches Group (SLBG)	Php 1,715,000,000.00 57,000,000.00 75,000,000.00 58,000,000.00 34,000,000.00	Php 40,000.00 40,000.00 30,000.00 27,000.00	Two (2) Years
[TRIBAL-2012-L-010] Lease of the Land Transportation Office Site with Filing Building	Php 14,000,000.00	Php 1,000.00	Within thirty five (35) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued by LANDBANK
[TRIBAL-2012-L-011] Supply and Delivery of Hot Rolling Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Paper for 750 Machines, Real Time ATM Teller Machine Maintenance Package	Php 71,875,000.00	Php 50,000.00	Within a one (1) year period from date after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project certified by the bid firm of users for the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids; and must submit the Audited Financial Statements for the last two (2) years (2010 and 2011) with a current ratio and debt-to-equity ratio of 1:1 and 1:2, respectively, as of the end of the said period ABC. The Philippine Peso financing rate will be the Prevailing Commercial Rate of bank and non-discretionary "specific" criteria. Pre-qualification of the bidder will be conducted.

All participants relative to: Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Post-Bidding Conference, Evaluation Criteria, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 27 (Friday) till 10 May 2012 (Friday), 10:00 AM, (10 calendar days)
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 3, 2012 (Thursday), 10:00 AM May 4, 2012 (Friday), 10:00 AM May 7, 2012 (Monday), 10:00 AM May 8, 2012 (Tuesday), 10:00 AM May 9, 2012 (Wednesday), 10:00 AM May 10, 2012 (Thursday), 10:00 AM Meeting Room, 26th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
3. Submission/ Opening of Bids	May 10, 2012 (Thursday), 10:00 AM (Deadline for Submission) May 10, 2012, 10:00 AM (Public Opening of Bids) Procurement Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
4. Bid Evaluation	May 10, 2012 - (7 days, 2012 (5 days, 10 and 24)
5. Post-Qualification	May 11, 2012 - (7 days, 2012 (5 days, 10 and 24) May 25, 2012 - (7 days, 2012 (5 days, 10 and 24)
6. Notice of Award	June 1, 2012 - (7 days, 2012 (5 days, 10 and 24) June 15, 2012 - (7 days, 2012 (5 days, 10 and 24)

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of the applicable non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Hundred Pesos (Php 200.00).

The LANDBANK reserves to reserve/modify whatsoever is considered as in the best interest for any reason/s and/or to the prejudice of bidder/s.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BAC-Sec. 01-2012

OPEN HOUSE TOMORROW

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- ✓ Low Price
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- ✓ Pag-Ibig Condo
- ✓ Easy Financing

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NOTICE OF LOSS

April 25, 2012

Please be informed that Mr. Ronald N. Valencia of the City Treasurer's Office, Daguhoy is reported to this office that his CAT 10 booklet (No. 2183153) was lost/stolen. If found or discovered, please inform the undersigned immediately for the purpose of appropriate action.

THELMA B. BARAOS
City Treasurer
Bayugan City

Effective 01 June 2012

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

North Avenue, Diliman 1
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR SECURITY HOLDING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION 6

The NFA Region 6 invites qualified Security Agency to participate in the bidding for the provision of Security Guard Services for the following NFA Warehouses/Offices:

1. Warehouse/Stockpile Locations Requirement Per Area

LOT NO.	WAREHOUSE (Stockpile)	NO. OF GUARDS	MIN. NO. OF TOURS OF DUTY	VOLUME FOR EACH ARE (Bags)	ABC (Inclusive of VAT) (Php)	ABC FOR EACH AREA (Php)
1	Nfa-6 Ms (Iloilo) Cy.					
	Lapuz Ph 1	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Lapuz Ph 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Jaro	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Molo	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Mandurriao Ph 1 & 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Leon	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Leon Annex	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Barotac Nuevo	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Nfa-6 Ms (Capiz) Cy.					
	Capiz Ph 1	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Capiz Ph 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Dumalag	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Roxas City	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Pilar	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Panay	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Ivisan	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Nfa-6 Ms (Aklan) Cy.					
	Kalibo Ph 1	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Kalibo Ph 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Numancia	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Banga	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Nfa-6 Ms (Antique) Cy.					
	Antique Ph 1	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Antique Ph 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Pandan	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Hamtic	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Culasi	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Nfa-6 Ms (Negros Occ) Cy.					
	Bacolod Ph 1	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Bacolod Ph 2	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Talisay	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Silay	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Kabankalan	2	2	10,000	600,000.00	
	Sagay

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - BIO-RESOURCES AND RESEARCH
Regional Government Center, Kelly Hill, Tuguegarao City, 3500
Telefax No.: (078) 304-0230

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SEEDLINGS FOR THE NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM (NGP)

The DENR Regional Office No. 02, through the National Appropriations Act of 2012 intends to apply the sum of Five Million Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Pesos (P5,284,239.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to undertake under the contract for the supply and delivery of seedlings for the National Greening Program (NGP) Project detail into lots, to wit:

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SEEDLINGS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) PER LOT
1	Cagayan	Fruit Trees	84,140	P 1,085,806.00
2	Nueva Vizcaya	Fruit Trees	63,214	P 1,004,972.00
3	Cagayan	Urban Trees	73,500	P 1,058,400.00
4	Isabela	Urban Trees	73,457	P 1,155,440.00
	TOTAL		294,311	P 5,284,238.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC per lot shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

Delivery of the Goods is required within thirty (30) days after contract awarding. Delivery should be completed, within forty (40) days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, as certified by the Project. The procurement of an eligible bidder is contingent to the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section 6. Instruction to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility contained in Sec 23 of RA 9184.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from April 28 to May 17, 2012 from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) enumerated and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per lot. The exact addresses of the PENROs are as follows:

PENRO Cagayan	Nueva Ecija Compound, San Gabriel, Tuguegarao City Telephone: (078) 846-1568 Contact person: Wilma D. Caseria Cellphone number: (0917) 555-8992
PENRO Isabela	Brgy. Calamagui, Ilagan, Isabela Telephone: (078) 624-1838 Contact person: Rosario M. Cortez Cellphone number: (0917) 556-3207
PENRO Nueva Vizcaya	Capitol Compound, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya Telefax: (078) 321-2585 Contact person: Francisco P. Aguinis Cellphone number: (0915) 621-3162

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on May 3, 2012 at 2 pm., New Hall, 4th Floor DENR Regional Office No. 02, Regional Government Center, Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan which shall be open only to parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids shall be delivered not later than 9 a.m. of May 17, 2012 at the same hall, 4th floor DENR Regional Office No. 02, Regional Government Center, Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

Bid opening shall be on May 17, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at same hall, 4th floor, DENR Regional Office No. 02, Regional Government Center, Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The DENR Regional Office No. 02 reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd) **WILFREDO C. BELUSO**
Chief, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Apr 27, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Lanao del Norte
Iligan City
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat
Provincial Treasurer's Office, Capitol Compound
Tubod, Lanao del Norte
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID FOR

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte, through the Bids and Awards Committee, invites bids for the following:

		ABC
1.	Construction of Level 3 (3rd) and Level 4 (4th) Roof Deck, Installation of Set Pockets in Columns for Roofs	P 1,000,000.00
2.	Construction of Perimeter Fence and Gate for Provincial Agriculture Extension Office	P 1,000,000.00
3.	Supply and delivery of Tarpaulin (Laminated)	P 700,000.00
4.	Supply and delivery of Rice and Corn Seeds (Hybrid)	P 700,000.00
5.	Supply and delivery of Information Kiosk	P 1,000,000.00
6.	Supply and delivery of Various Supplies for Provincial Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Office of the Province	P 1,000,000.00
7.	Supply and delivery of Solid Waste Management Equipment (1 Backhoe and 1 Dump Truck) for the Municipality of Kauswagan	P 4,000,000.00

PARTICULARS	DATE
Pre-bid Conference	May 7, 2012 (@ 10:00AM)
Deadline for submission of Bids	May 14, 2012 (@ 10:00AM)
Opening of Bids	

Bidding documents are available for purchase at the Office of the Provincial Treasurer, Tubod, Lanao del Norte, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per set.

Bidders are required to submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where they are principally doing business, and a valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR of RA 9184.

The Province of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waives any formality or technicality, and to accept the bid/s it may consider advantageous to the government. The Bids and Awards Committee shall post the bid results in the Provincial Government's bulletin board and shall neither entertain any complaint nor accept any explanation from any bidder regarding the bid results after the said posting. The Provincial Government shall not be responsible for any bid submitted that is received by the bidder after the deadline.

(Sgd) **MILFRED T. AMADO**
Vice - Chairman

(PDI - April 27, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
Provincial Treasurer's Office
Provincial Capitol, Dr. Evangelista Compound
Legaspi City
Telefax No.: (052) 820-2054
Website: http://www.albayprov.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Albay, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested and eligible contractors to apply and submit bid proposals for the following projects:

	PROJECT NAME/TITLE	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1.	Construction of Engineering Hall (Steel Section) - Guinobatan District Hallway (1st)	Php 5,000,000.00
2.	Construction of Multi-Purpose Building - Polangui District Hallway (1st)	Php 5,000,000.00

Qualifications of bidders shall be pursuant to existing laws, and applicants must have completed one of these projects of similar nature and complexity, as stated in Section 23.4.2 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Invitation to Bid	April 27, 2012 (Friday)
Pre-bid Conference	May 4, 2012 (10:00 AM)
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 11, 2012 (10:00 AM)
Opening of Bids	May 11, 2012 (2:00 PM)

Bidding documents are available for purchase at the Office of the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Capitol, Dr. Evangelista Compound, Legaspi City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Bidders are required to submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where they are principally doing business, and a valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR of RA 9184.

The Provincial Government of Albay reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or technicality, and to accept the bid/s it may consider advantageous to the government. The Bids and Awards Committee shall post the bid results in the Provincial Government's bulletin board and shall neither entertain any complaint nor accept any explanation from any bidder regarding the bid results after the said posting. The Provincial Government shall not be responsible for any bid submitted that is received by the bidder after the deadline.

(Sgd) **ATTY. ANTONIO G. EBARLE JR., CPA**
Vice Governor
BAC Chairman

(PDI Apr. 27, 2012)

Calamba Water District
Lakeview Subdivision, Parian, Calamba, Laguna
P.O. Box 1000, 4027 Calamba City, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 545-0138 / 545-1139 / 545-0851
Fax (049) 545-0139

INVITATION TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Galvanized Iron Pipes and Fittings

1. The Calamba Water District (CWD) has allocated the amount of Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) inclusive of VAT for the Supply and Delivery of Galvanized Iron Pipes and Fittings, Various Sizes and Schedules, as per Annual Budget for the Year 2012.
2. The Calamba Water District (CWD) now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of Galvanized Iron Pipes and Fittings, Various Sizes and Schedules, as per Annual Budget for the Year 2012. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The similarity of the bidder's contract shall be determined by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Calamba Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on April 28, 2012 up to 10:00 a.m. on May 10, 2012 from the address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). Payment shall be made in cash or manager's check.
6. Prospective bidders may contact Ms. Esther Ann Ferrer, Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, at telephone number (049) 545-0138 / 545-1139 / 545-0851 for clarifications.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of May 10, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on May 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the New CWD Administrative Building, Lakeview Subdivision, Parian, Calamba City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Calamba Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd) **ENGR. ALBERTO M. DOMINGO, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Attested by:

(Sgd) **ATTY. ALBERTO M. ESPINOSA**
General Manager

(PDI - Apr. 27, 2012)

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
Provincial Treasurer's Office
Camalig Compound, Capitol Grounds
Daraga (Locsin), Albay

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Albay, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested and eligible contractors to apply and submit bid proposals for the following projects:

	PROJECT NAME/TITLE	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1.	Repair and Rehabilitation of Provincial Hall Building (Phase II) - Office of the Governor, Office of the Vice Governor, Session Hall, Conference Hall, Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Legal Office, Provincial Treasurer's Office, Provincial Assessor's Office, Provincial Budget Office, Provincial Accounting Office, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Engineering Office, Provincial Agriculture Office, Provincial Veterinary Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Provincial Cooperatives and Enterprise Development Office, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, Provincial Health Office, Provincial Population Management Office, Provincial Information Office, Provincial Tourism Office, Provincial Public Employment Service Office, Provincial Gender and Development Office, Provincial Human Resource Development Office, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Provincial Archives, Provincial Library, Provincial Museum, Provincial Motorpool, Provincial Security Unit, Provincial Jail, Provincial Clinic, Provincial Dental Clinic, Provincial Laboratory, Provincial Radio Station, Provincial Gymnasium, Provincial Coliseum, Provincial Cockpit, Provincial Stadium, Provincial Swimming Pool, Provincial Training Center, Provincial Guesthouse, Provincial Garage, Provincial Warehouse, Provincial Canteen, Provincial Comfort Room, Provincial Parking Area, Provincial Fence, Provincial Gate, Provincial Flagpole, Provincial Monument, Provincial Fountain, Provincial Landscaping, Provincial Lighting, Provincial Signage, Provincial Drainage, Provincial Sewerage, Provincial Septic Tank, Provincial Water System, Provincial Power System, Provincial Communication System, Provincial Security System, Provincial Fire Protection System, Provincial Air-conditioning System, Provincial Elevator, Provincial Escalator, Provincial Generator, Provincial Transformer, Provincial Switchgear, Provincial Substation, Provincial Transmission Line, Provincial Distribution Line, Provincial Pole, Provincial Tower, Provincial Antenna, Provincial Satellite Dish, Provincial Transponder, Provincial Uplink, Provincial Downlink, Provincial Modulator, Provincial Demodulator, Provincial Encoder, Provincial Decoder, Provincial Multiplexer, Provincial Demultiplexer, Provincial Router, Provincial Switch, Provincial Hub, Provincial Server, Provincial Workstation, Provincial Computer, Provincial Laptop, Provincial Printer, Provincial Scanner, Provincial Photocopier, Provincial Fax Machine, Provincial Telephone, Provincial Intercom, Provincial Public Address System, Provincial Audio System, Provincial Video System, Provincial Projector, Provincial Screen, Provincial Whiteboard, Provincial Blackboard, Provincial Chalkboard, Provincial Eraser, Provincial Chalk, Provincial Marker, Provincial Pen, Provincial Pencil, Provincial Paper, Provincial Envelope, Provincial Folder, Provincial Binder, Provincial Clip, Provincial Stapler, Provincial Staple, Provincial Tape, Provincial Glue, Provincial Scissors, Provincial Knife, Provincial Ruler, Provincial Calculator, Provincial Abacus, Provincial Globe, Provincial Map, Provincial Atlas, Provincial Dictionary, Provincial Encyclopedia, Provincial Thesaurus, Provincial Grammar Book, Provincial Textbook, Provincial Workbook, Provincial Notebook, Provincial Diary, Provincial Calendar, Provincial Clock, Provincial Watch, Provincial Bell, Provincial Siren, Provincial Whistle, Provincial Megaphone, Provincial Loudspeaker, Provincial Microphone, Provincial Headset, Provincial Earphone, Provincial Camera, Provincial Video Camera, Provincial Tripod, Provincial Lens, Provincial Flash, Provincial Battery, Provincial Charger, Provincial Cable, Provincial Wire, Provincial Connector, Provincial Adapter, Provincial Plug, Provincial Socket, Provincial Switch, Provincial Circuit Breaker, Provincial Fuse, Provincial Relay, Provincial Contactor, Provincial Capacitor, Provincial Resistor, Provincial Inductor, Provincial Transformer, Provincial Rectifier, Provincial Inverter, Provincial Converter, Provincial Amplifier, Provincial Oscillator, Provincial Modulator, Provincial Demodulator, Provincial Encoder, Provincial Decoder, Provincial Multiplexer, Provincial Demultiplexer, Provincial Router, Provincial Switch, Provincial Hub, Provincial Server, Provincial Workstation, Provincial Computer, Provincial Laptop, Provincial Printer, Provincial Scanner, Provincial Photocopier, Provincial Fax Machine, Provincial Telephone, Provincial Intercom, Provincial Public Address System, Provincial Audio System, Provincial Video System, Provincial Projector, Provincial Screen, Provincial Whiteboard, Provincial Blackboard, Provincial Chalkboard, Provincial Eraser, Provincial Chalk, Provincial Marker, Provincial Pen, Provincial Pencil, Provincial Paper, Provincial Envelope, Provincial Folder, Provincial Binder, Provincial Clip, Provincial Stapler, Provincial Staple, Provincial Tape, Provincial Glue, Provincial Scissors, Provincial Knife, Provincial Ruler, Provincial Calculator, Provincial Abacus, Provincial Globe, Provincial Map, Provincial Atlas, Provincial Dictionary, Provincial Encyclopedia, Provincial Thesaurus, Provincial Grammar Book, Provincial Textbook, Provincial Workbook, Provincial Notebook, Provincial Diary, Provincial Calendar, Provincial Clock, Provincial Watch, Provincial Bell, Provincial Siren, Provincial Whistle, Provincial Megaphone, Provincial Loudspeaker, Provincial Microphone, Provincial Headset, Provincial Earphone, Provincial Camera, Provincial Video Camera, Provincial Tripod, Provincial Lens, Provincial Flash, Provincial Battery, Provincial Charger, Provincial Cable, Provincial Wire, Provincial Connector, Provincial Adapter, Provincial Plug, Provincial Socket, Provincial Switch, Provincial Circuit Breaker, Provincial Fuse, Provincial Relay, Provincial Contactor, Provincial Capacitor, Provincial Resistor, Provincial Inductor, Provincial Transformer, Provincial Rectifier, Provincial Inverter, Provincial Converter, Provincial Amplifier, Provincial Oscillator

PARTICULARS	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Invitation to Bid	April 27, 2012 (Friday)
Pre-bid Conference	May 4, 2012 (10:00 AM)
Deadline for Submission of Bids	May 11, 2012 (10:00 AM)
Opening of Bids	May 11, 2012 (2:00 PM)

Bidding documents are available for purchase at the Office of the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Capitol, Dr. Evangelista Compound, Legaspi City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Bidders are required to submit a valid Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where they are principally doing business, and a valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR of RA 9184.

The Provincial Government of Albay reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or technicality, and to accept the bid/s it may consider advantageous to the government. The Bids and Awards Committee shall post the bid results in the Provincial Government's bulletin board and shall neither entertain any complaint nor accept any explanation from any bidder regarding the bid results after the said posting. The Provincial Government shall not be responsible for any bid submitted that is received by the bidder after the deadline.

(Sgd) **ATTY. ANTONIO G. EBARLE JR., CPA**
Vice Governor
BAC Chairman

(PDI Apr. 27, 2012)

VMC VISA & IMMIGRATION CONSULTANCY
Unit 1111 Citystate Tower 2, 21 St. Cor. Escario Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
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  - No IELTS Required
- **NURSES with NO HIGHER LICENSE**
  - Must have minimum of 2 years experience in hospital setting
- **Undertaker Nurses**
  - Must be 35 years old and above
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  - Must PASS the Medical Exam
- **GRADUATES FROM ANY COURSE**
  - Graduates of any course, STUDENT NURSES
  - HIGH SCHOOL GRAD / UNDERGRAD
  - TEACHERS, MED TECHS, DENTAL THERAPIST
  - DENTAL HYGIENISTS
  - MANY OTHER OCCUPATIONS AVAILABLE APPLY

FREE SEMINAR
this coming MAY 5, 2012 @ 1pm
Venue: "HERALD SUITES"
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OBITUARIES

"Come and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up."
– Hosea 6:1

BELLA SANTOS - ERASMO

A retired Chief Teacher of San Alejandro Recto, Jr., IS, peacefully joined her Creator on April 25, 2012 at the age of 78.

She is survived by husband Bel. Prof. **Domingo S. Erasmo** of San Pedro College and 3 (3) children: **Anthony** and **Judith Anne** and **Aga Rose**; grandchildren **Ma. Katrina** and **Ma. Sophia Erasmo**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies at the Monastery of San Nicolas Parish Church at Orpianar St. near Cherry Foodarama, Davao City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 28, 2012, 11:30 a.m. at Hinabangan Pilipog, Davao City after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

JULIANA GARCIA GAMIT

peacefully retired her Creator on April 20, 2012 at the age of 78

Her bereaved husband Dhonbadio Gamit (†); children Lily & Rene, Jaime & Cora, Ret. Lt. Ada, Larry & Lea, Willie (†) & Norma, Celia, Melchor (†) & Bernadette, Cristina & Wilfredo, and Jess (†); grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at their residence in Concepcion East, Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at Zaragoza Cemetery, Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija.

LASALLIAN EAST ASIA DISTRICT

With Faith in the Resurrection

THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS &
THE PHILIPPINE LASALLIAN FAMILY

announce the death of

Br. Rolando "Roly" Dizon FSC

OCTOBER 31, 1944 - APRIL 25, 2012

He is indeed a true leader, and came to us with his unique giftedness, being larger than life, in top form, strong and passionate.

His remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Divine Child (NSDC), La Salle Green Hills, Mandaluyong City.

Mass of the Resurrection (NSDC) | 9:00AM, Sunday, April 29, 2012

Interment (De La Salle Brothers Memorial Cloister, La Salle Novitiate, Lipa City) | 3:30PM, Sunday April 29, 2012

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE DE LA SALLE BROTHERS MEMORIAL FUND. WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Soledad Habana Afable

born 12 December 1920, passed away peacefully in the Grace of Our Lord on April 23, 2012 at age of 91.

She is survived by her children and their spouses **Loren, Fidmar** and **Cynthia, Lucille** and **Vaughn, John** and **Maria Luisa, Jaime** and **Milagros**, and **Jonathan**; her grandchildren and her siblings.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment is scheduled on Saturday, 28 April 2012, at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at Mt. Carmel Church.

SERAFINA "FINING" ELAZEGUI-RIVENTAR

Arrasate-Ea (9-5)-April 23, 2012

Devoted friend for 5 years and Assistant Admin for 10 years. 86

She is survived by her children and their spouses **Rolando** and **Mila Riventar**, **Rodolfo Jr.** and **Irene Riventar**, **Raul** and **Rosario Riventar**, and **Rolly** and **Marlene Riventar**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, and friends; and other dear persons who will be notified by the bereaved family.

Her remains lie in state at the Legacy Memorial Chapels, 5 Cuenca St., cor. Reed St., Urdaneta City.

Interment will be at Holy Spirit Memorial Park, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City.

Now Open to Serve You

Philippine Daily Inquirer opens a new Classified Advertising Branch in Pasig City at No. 11 Freemont Arcade, Sham Blvd., Pasig City between Pioneer St. & Meralco Ave. near SSS Pasig office.

Our Beloved Mama

PURIFICACION SAMONTE VILLASEÑOR

of Quezon City & Gaugua, Pampanga

Died on April 25, 2012
at the age of 86 years old.

Her loving husband **Nick**; children **Nicky** & **Sofia Limjap**; **Rene** & **Vicki Dehesa** and **Joel** & **Agnes Quisimbing**; grandchildren **Paulo**, **Tina**, **Denise**, **Patricia**, **Nicolo**, **Gabriel**, **Miguel**, **Cecilia** and **Lucas** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan, Quezon City. There will be mass at 7 o'clock every night.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. followed by cremation at The Arlington Crematory, Quezon City.

Her cremated remains shall be interred at the Sta. Maria della Strada Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Sta. Maria della Strada Foundation will be appreciated.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." **(2 Timothy 4)**

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FORCE MAJEURE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE YEAR 2016 SEEKING APPROVAL TO RECOVER IN THE DISTRIBUTION RATES DUE TO STORM DAMAGES AND AUTHORITY TO DEFER CLAIMS UNDER THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE No. 2016-XXX MC

MISAMIS ORIENTAL I RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (MORESCO I),
Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on February 01, 2016, the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I) filed an application for the approval of its force majeure capital projects for the year 2016 arising from the damages to its distribution assets due to typhoon "Seniang" with authority to recover from them the National Electrification Administration (NEA) duly approved a proposed quarterly rate adjustment.

In the said application MORESCO I alleged, among others, the following:

1. It is an electric cooperative duly organized and existing by virtue of laws of the Republic of the Philippines, for franchising area includes the city, municipalities and a city in the Province of Misamis Oriental, namely: Balingoan, Gingoog, Kinoguitan, Lagonglong, Magsaysay, Manticao, Medina, Naawan, Opol, Salay, Tagoloan and Villanueva, and the municipality and city in the Province of Misamis Occidental, namely: Aloran, Baliangao, Calamba, Clarin, Oroquieta, Panaon, Plaridel, Sapang Dalaga and Tudela, with principal office address at Misamis Oriental-Misamis Occidental Road, Barangay Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, where it may be served with notices and processes issued in this case;
2. Typhoon "Seniang" (international name: Nock-Ten) which entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on December 17, 2016 and exited the PAR on December 27, 2016, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, hit the Province of Misamis Oriental, Province of Misamis Occidental, Province of Bukidnon, Province of Lanao del Norte, Province of Camiguin, Province of Agusan del Norte, Province of Agusan del Sur, Province of Surigao del Norte, Province of Surigao del Sur, Province of Dinagat Islands, Province of Davao Oriental, Province of Davao de Oro, Province of Davao del Norte, Province of Davao del Sur, Province of Davao Occidental, Province of Cotabato, Province of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Sarangani, Province of South Cotabato, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, Province of Basilan, Province of Tawi-Tawi, Province of Sulu, Province of Palawan, Province of Aklan, Province of Antique, Province of Capiz, Province of Iloilo, Province of Guimaras, Province of Negros Occidental, Province of Negros Oriental, Province of Siquijor, Province of Cebu, Province of Bohol, Province of Leyte, Province of Southern Leyte, Province of Biliran, Province of Eastern Samar, Province of Northern Samar, Province of Western Samar, Province of Catanduanes, Province of Albay, Province of Camarines Sur, Province of Camarines Norte, Province of Sorsogon, Province of Masbate, Province of Romblon, Province of Mindoro Occidental, Province of Mindoro Oriental, Province of Marinduque, Province of Batangas, Province of Cavite, Province of Laguna, Province of Rizal, Province of Quezon, Province of Bulacan, Province of Pampanga, Province of Tarlac, Province of Zambales, Province of Pangasinan, Province of La Union, Province of Ilocos Sur, Province of Ilocos Norte, Province of Abra, Province of Apayao, Province of Kalinga, Province of Mountain Province, Province of Ifugao, Province of Benguet, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, Province of Quirino, Province of Aurora, Province of Nueva Ecija, Province of Bata